

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adventurous Jazz Quintet Tony Koch and the AltNews Band Releasing Sizzling Debut *UberChill*

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(Vancouver, BC) October 25, 2017 – Innovative jazz quintet Tony Koch and the AltNews Band will be releasing its debut album, *Uberchill*, now available on multiple platforms to download and stream as well as in CD form via the group’s website. The collection of originals is overflowing with ultra-hip, lyrical melodies, rich harmonies and dynamic fusion grooves with undertones of funk and rock that challenge concepts of traditional jazz while still holding true to the genre’s deep, improvisational roots.

UberChill, is a collection of bandleader, guitarist, composer and jazz visionary Tony Koch’s original alternative jazz tunes that dives deeply into his creative use of melody, harmony and rhythm and celebrates each members’ diverse perspectives, all framed by the group’s sizzling chemistry. The songs on the album encourage listeners to slow down, relax and melt into delicious layers of melody and harmony. *UberChill* features sparkling performances with simmering grooves and soaring solos. The underlying compositions tell thought-provoking stories about the thrill and adventure of life’s mysterious ebbs and flows.

The AltNews Band brings together elements of neo bop, nu jazz, chill and Latin music with unexpected instrumental solos, richly layered synth sounds, hip rhythms and bluesy, funky guitar hooks. Started by guitarist, composer and jazz visionary Tony Koch, the quintet is filled out by producer, engineer and bass player Miles Hill, drummer Bobby Ruggiero, saxophonist Campbell Ryga and renowned Vancouver multi-instrumentalist Miles Black. Members have established their own distinctive voices through decades of innovating, performing and recording, and because Koch carefully lays out each of his compositions with these unique players in mind, The AltNews Band achieves a compelling sweet and savory blend of fresh sounds based on players’ individual strengths.

The AltNews Band came together after Koch retired from full-time teaching and moved just up



the coast from Vancouver, to Pender Harbour, where he had built a home and small custom studio that became an inspiring place to create new music. After putting together several tunes, he contacted long-time friend, producer, engineer and bass player Hill, who had partnered with him on a fusion project 25 years prior. The pair tightened up arrangements before bringing in versatile pianist Black to inject a neo bop attitude into the project. They then invited Ruggiero from Las Vegas and, after rehearsing songs for the album and tweaking arrangements, they sought a broader color palate and enlisted the amazing talents of saxophonist Campbell Ryga.

Members of the AltNews Band are all accomplished artists and creators with extraordinary backgrounds. Koch is a long-time music educator and multi-instrumentalist who has played in a wide variety of jazz groups, including the Vancouver Ensemble of Jazz Improvisation (VEJI) and has toured the Canadian jazz festival circuit, performing at the Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Victoria, and Halifax Jazz Festivals, as well as many others. Along with mixing the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2010 Olympic Games, Hill has recorded and performed live with artists including Van Morrison, Michael Bublé, Colin James, Brazilian pop sensation Ivan Lins and more and has played on over 600 records ranging from jazz, funk and tango to country and rock. Black is a well-known composer, writer and performer in the Vancouver jazz scene who is a part of multiple modern jazz groups and has worked with artists such as Mark Murphy, Slide Hampton, George Coleman, Sheila Jordan, Dee Daniels, Skywalk, Lew Tabackin, Von Freeman and numerous others. Ruggiero has over 30 years of professional touring, producing and recording experience as a drummer, vocalist and musical director with credits including Van Morrison, Sam Butera, Beau Brummels, Natalie Cole, Jimmy Smith, Roger Daltry, Tom Jones, Paul Simon, Eric Clapton, Lee Greenwood, Al Hurt and appearances on The Tonight Show. Ryga has participated in 26 international tours and is the recipient of three Juno Awards, two Western Canadian Music awards in the jazz category, a Grammy nomination and was featured on Michael Bublé's Grammy-winning song "Crazy Love."

The AltNews Band continues to seek answers to the eternal question, "What is jazz?" through fresh music that pushes its boundaries while honoring its roots. The group is planning a series of live performances in support of *Uberchill* and is already in the studio putting together a sophomore album, due to hit in spring 2018.

For more information about *UberChill* and Tony Koch and the AltNews Band, including upcoming releases and live performances, visit the group's website.

tonykoch.ca
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Tony Koch
Guitar and Synths



Miles Black
Piano, Organ



Miles Hill
Bass



Campbell Ryga
Alto and Soprano Sax



Bobby Ruggiero
Drums and Percussion