

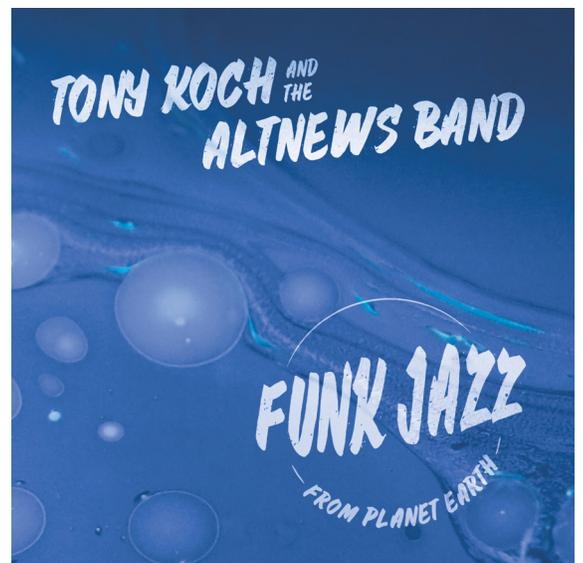


# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Adventurous Jazz Quintet Tony Koch and the AltNews Band Releasing 'Killer No Filler' Funk Jazz from Planet Earth

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**(Vancouver, BC) October 24, 2018** – Trail blazing jazz quintet Tony Koch and The AltNews Band is releasing their second album, *Funk Jazz from Planet Earth*. Building on the acclaimed success of their debut recording, *Uber Chill*, *Funk Jazz from Planet Earth* finds The AltNews Band taking a hard turn towards the exploration of retro funk/bop/fusion grooves with elements of Afro/Latin/Pop vibes thrown in for good measure. This new collection of ten originals features exciting, hip grooves which provide framing and context for complex, neo bop melodies and harmonies with ultra-hooky themes, all highlighted by soaring, passionate solos that wind their way through exciting key changes and musical motifs. *Funk Jazz from Planet Earth* once again showcases the group's sizzling chemistry as they present rich and meaningful music, telling stories about the thrill of life's mysteries.





Bandleader Tony Koch explains, *“Funk Jazz from Planet Earth ups the bar with respect to tempos, complexity of the melodies and faster-moving solo section harmonies. Our first CD, Uber Chill had soloists contributing harmonic content that moved from chord to chord in a very relaxed and patient manner. The idea was to cover some deep jazz harmony while providing ample time for the listener to adjust and follow along, even through dense harmonies. With Funk Jazz from Planet Earth the solo sections draw from more complex jazz changes, which require the soloist to manage fairly rapid harmonic movement throughout their motivic development. It was certainly a more challenging body of material for all of us, and a real pleasure for me to present to and collaborate on with the guys.”*

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.

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 Bubl , 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. He 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 Bubl ’s Grammy-winning song “Crazy Love.”

After the release of *Funk Jazz from Planet Earth*, The AltNews Band will hit the studio to record a third album in Spring 2019.

For more information about *Funk Jazz from Planet Earth* and The AltNews Band, including additional releases and upcoming live performances and events, visit the group’s website:

[tonykoch.ca](http://tonykoch.ca)  
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