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BILL O'CONNELL

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME

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CRAIG HANDY
LINCOLN GOINES
STEVE JORDAN
PEDRITO MARTINEZ

SAVANT
SCD 2197

Bill O'Connell – all arrangements, piano & Fender Rhodes

Craig Handy – tenor & soprano saxophone

Lincoln Goines – acoustic & electric bass

Steve Jordan – drums • Pedrito Martinez – percussion

TRACK LIST

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Moment's Notice | 8:08 |
| 2. Loco-Motive | 6:06 |
| 3. Covid Blues | 5:08 |
| 4. A Change is Gonna Come | 6:37 |
| 5. Sun for Sonny | 4:21 |
| 6. Enough is Enough | 7:51 |
| 7. Sweet Peanut | 6:13 |
| 8. A Prayer for Us | 7:10 |
| 9. Chaos | 5:11 |
| 10. My Foolish Heart | 4:40 |

At the time of this writing it may be wintertime, a winter further darkened by the Covid crisis, but Bill O'Connell's optimistically-titled A Change is Gonna Come exudes some welcome warmth and sunshine. Even Bill's original "Covid Blues" displays a subtle sense of playfulness, entrusting the slightly off-kilter blues number to the distinctive tone color of Craig Handy's soprano saxophone. Likewise the plaintive melody of Sam Cooke's title track contains a note of optimism here. But with O'Connell at the helm we shouldn't be surprised by imaginative arrangements since he was a Grammy finalist in 2022 for Best Instrumental Arrangement. He is a real triple-threat in jazz, equally well-known as a composer, arranger and instrumentalist, having honed his craft carefully from his days with Mongo Santamaria in the 70s, his involvement in the legendary ensemble, Jasmine, his gigs with Chet Baker, Gato Barbieri, Sonny Rollins and others and his long-time associations with Jerry Gonzalez's Fort Apache Band and the late Latin jazz flautist, Dave Valentin. A Change Is Gonna Come features seven remarkable works by O'Connell, a four-time recipient of the Jazz Writer of the Year award from SESAC, a tune by Trane, the title track by Sam Cooke and a unique take on the standard "My Foolish Heart." With Handy, Lincoln Goines, Pedrito Martinez and drummer Steve Jordan (currently taking over for the late Charlie Watts with the Rolling Stones) Bill O'Connell's latest recording cements his place as a master of the broadest spectrum of musical styles, a giant of modern jazz and a member of Latin jazz royalty



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