



## PRESS RELEASE

### Alex Hutton Trio – “Legentis”

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*“an affectingly hooky melodic knack to a rich and freewheeling impressionism” **The Guardian***

**Alex Hutton** is one of the UK’s hidden treasures. A resourceful, gifted composer and pianist his last album, *Songs From The Seven Hills*, was acclaimed for its powerful evocation of the people and landscape of Hutton’s native Sheffield and its deft mix of classical, folk and even punk influences. While **Legentis**, his highly anticipated follow-up and debut for F-IRE Records finds Hutton taking the euphoria, melancholy and range of emotions usually found in big film scores and condensing them to the piano trio format. The dexterous new line-up of Russian bassist **Yuri Goloubev** and renowned drummer **Asaf Sirkis** enables Hutton to compose and explore enchanting through-composed material with delicacy, but while drawing on the power and textures of a larger band. The addition of French Horn, Vocals, Flute and Cor Anglais allows Hutton to explore the music’s many nuances fully and while melodically the music’s roots are in northern Europe they are built on an undercurrent of hypnotic dance like grooves.

For Hutton the album is an extension of ideas and thoughts from his previous work, the opportunity to express ideas and emotions through deceptively simple themes. The pieces were written with the musicians in mind: *“I wanted fearless virtuoso’s who would take on fresh material with no inhibitions. Bass player Yuri’s classical background and Asaf’s more rocky approach were/are a perfect canvass on which to develop these new anthemic emotive pieces The sixth sense of Asaf in particular was invaluable. It’s hard to think of Asaf as a drummer in regular terms - because he plays the whole kit so musically and I was looking for a bassist that would rise to the challenge of new music without any preconceived jazz history limitations. Yuri was perfect for this role”.*

The album opens with **J.J**, which Hutton describes as something ‘anthemic or heroic’, although the vocal line adds an element of mystery. **The Legentis Script** is partly inspired by the arrangement ideas of **Vince Mendoza**, **John Williams** and **Elmer Bernstein** and finds Hutton imagining a world where culture is celebrated. **Clouds** is a simple melancholic folk theme which provides a bass for some beautifully lyrical soloing, **Then There Were Four** has more of a rock like feel, perhaps recalling the work of EST. **Wonder Why** is a solid retro rock groove in 7/8. The piano brings in a simple theme, and there’s a great use of space to hang the melody. It’s interesting that the second section almost seems to answer the first. The wistful **Farewell 296** is a beguiling ballad that reveals a subtle harmonic development and glorious use of space and the closing **A Norsk Tale** is an epilogue solo piano piece, reminiscent of Grieg’s Lyric Pieces. Every note here has conviction and meaning. The beauty of a lone piano accompanying itself is no more apparent than on this final piece and the simple beauty of the piece serves as the perfect closer for an elegant, elegiac album from one of the UK most luminous composers and pianists.

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