

LYDIA LIEBMAN
PROMOTIONS//

For Immediate Release
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**ACCLAIMED 6x GRAMMY NOMINATED ALTO SAXOPHONIST, COMPOSER,
AND BANDLEADER LAKECIA BENJAMIN ANNOUNCES *WE DREAM***

**FEATURES GUEST APPEARANCES BY TERENCE BLANCHARD, HIROMI,
CHRIS POTTER, JEFF “TAIN” WATTS, CHIEF XIAN ATUNDE ADJUAH,
BILAL, AND TIARANNA “TANK” BALL, ALONG WITH CO-PRODUCER
KASSA OVERALL**

TO BE RELEASED JUNE 5 2026 VIA ARTWORK RECORDS



We Dream is the new studio album by New York–based alto saxophonist, composer, and bandleader **Lakecia Benjamin**. Conceived as a deeply band-driven project, her sixth album and **Artwork Records** debut, out **June 5**, centers on Benjamin’s frequent collaborators in pianists **Oscar Pérez** and **Miki Hayama** and bassist **Elias Bailey** — along with new associates in trumpeter **Sean Jones**, and drummer **Jonathan Barber** — alongside an expansive cast of

guest collaborators drawn from across jazz, R&B, hip-hop, and experimental music.

“It does, as usual, have some of my guest flair,” Benjamin explains. “But this time, it’s for a different purpose.” Following the arc of 2023’s *Phoenix* and 2025’s Grammy-nominated, standalone single “Noble Rise,” *We Dream* reflects what Benjamin describes as a shift in perspective — a response to the present moment and the world around her. “It felt like that story couldn’t go all the way, given the state of the world,” she says. “So I started thinking about the idea of being a bright light in a dark space. Things feel really dark right now — everywhere — and we’re trying to be that light.”

Rather than assembling guests for ornamentation, Benjamin approached the project as a collective statement, bringing together artists she admires for their capacity to evolve, innovate, and reshape musical language. Her self-described team of “Avengers” includes trumpeters **Terence Blanchard** and **Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah**; saxophonist **Chris Potter**; drummer **Jeff “Tain” Watts**; pianist **Hiroshi**; the Roots’ **Black Thought**; vocalists **Bilal** and **Tiaranna “Tank” Ball of Tank and the Bangas**; and drummer and producer **Kassa Overall**.

When describing her collaborators, Benjamin emphasizes that they are not bound by genre, pointing instead to artists who have reshaped music through sound, presentation, and the spaces in which it can exist.

We Dream arrives after a period of heightened visibility for Benjamin. After years working with artists including Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Prince, Missy Elliott, Anita Baker, Gregory Porter, Kool & the Gang, and The Roots, she redefined her artistic direction with 2020’s *Pursuance: The Coltranes*, a guest-driven project honoring John and Alice Coltrane as parallel creative forces. Released during the pandemic, the album marked a turning point — reconnecting Benjamin’s work to lineage, spirituality, and personal responsibility during a moment of global pause.

She followed *Pursuance* with *Phoenix*, recorded after surviving a near-fatal car accident. The album proved a breakthrough, earning multiple Grammy nominations — including Best Jazz Instrumental Performance, Best Instrumental Composition (“Amerikkan Skin”), and Best Jazz Performance (“Basquiat”) — and expanding both the scale and audience for her work.

Phoenix’s sister album, *Phoenix Reimagined (Live)* — announced on national TV by Stephen Colbert while she sat in with the Late Show Band — was nominated for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and Best Jazz Performance. At the forthcoming 2026 ceremony, Benjamin is nominated for Best Jazz Performance for the standalone single “Noble Rise,” featuring fellow alto saxophonist Immanuel Wilkins.

Musically, *We Dream* unfolds as a cinematic, poem-driven journey. The album opens with the mesmerizing, tenacious spoken word piece “**First Light**.” This segues into “**Beyond the Dawn**,” featuring Terence Blanchard alongside Sean Jones, Barber’s mallet work, and a spoken-word invocation by Benjamin that sets the album’s tone — part meditation, part reckoning. The music then surges forward, channeling intensity, propulsion, and forward motion.

Throughout the record, Benjamin blends spoken word, groove-based writing, and high-energy improvisation. “**My Only**,” featuring Jones, explores isolation and endurance. “**Mi Gente**,” with Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah, centers community and cultural exchange, grounded in rhythm and collective movement.

“**Dream Breaker**,” featuring Watts, Potter, and Jones, pushes the music into a more combustible space, while “Flamekeeper,” with Hiromi and Potter, accelerates through force, volume, and extended exchange — reflecting Benjamin’s admiration for artists “who are not standing still, who are pushing forward, who are innovating.”

The album’s title track, “**We Dream**,” features spoken word and vocals by Tiaranna “Tank” Ball, whose narrative presence shapes the composition’s emotional arc. Later, “**Right Now**” brings together Bilal and Kassa Overall in what Benjamin describes as the record’s dramatic peak, where lyric, rhythm, and improvisation converge. The closing track, “**New World**,” offers a quieter resolution — a glimpse of the light Benjamin set out to find.

Across *We Dream*, Benjamin situates jazz within a broader cultural landscape, reflecting her growing presence at festivals where jazz shares the stage with DJs, reggae acts, and genre-defying artists. But genre aside, it stands as a bold, intentional artistic statement — one that insists on forward motion, collective imagination, and the power of sound to illuminate even the darkest spaces.

Track Listing

1. First Light
2. Beyond the Dawn (ft. Terence Blanchard)
3. My Only (ft. Sean Jones)
4. Mi Gente (ft. Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah)
5. Ascension
6. DreamBreaker (ft. Chris Potter, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Sean Jones)
7. We Dream (ft. Tarriona “Tank” Ball)
8. Flamekeeper (ft. Hiromi)
9. Hiromi Jam (ft. Hiromi)
10. Right Now (ft. Bilal and Kassa Overall)
11. New World

Tour Dates

03/10 - Szczecin, PL - Szczecin Jazz Festival
03/17 - Istanbul, TR - Paribu Art Performing Arts and Cultural Center
03/18 - Munich, DE - Nightclub Bayerischer Hof
03/19 - Hannover, DE - Jazz-Club Hannover
03/21 - Bergamo, IT - Bergamo Jazz Festival
03/22 - Mindelheim, DE - Mindelheimer Jazztage
03/25 - Denver, CO - Dazzle
03/26 - Denver, CO - Dazzle
03/27 - Santa Cruz, CA - Kuumbwa
03/28 - San Francisco, CA - SFJAZZ
03/31 - Seattle, WA - Jazz Alley
04/01 - Seattle, WA - Jazz Alley
04/17 - Elyria, OH - Hoke Theatre of Stocker Arts Center
04/27 - Seoul, KR - Trinity Hall
05/07 - San Francisco, CA - SFJAZZ Gala
05/08 - Santa Monica, CA - Santa Monica International Jazz Festival
05/22 - Vicenza, IT - Vicenza Jazz Festival
05/23 - Den Bosch, NL - Jazz in DukeTown
05/24 - Moers, DE - Moers Festival
05/25 - Moers, DE - Moers Festival
05/28 - Cadiz, ES - Gran Teatro Falla
05/31 - Bergen, NO - NattJazz Festival
06/04 - Columbia, MD - Amped in the Park
06/13 - Sceaux, FR - Sceaux Jazz Festival
06/14 - Vienna, AT - Porgy & Bess
06/17 - London, UK - Ronnie Scott's
06/18 - Warsaw, PL - Jassmine
06/19 - Middleburg, NL - Zeeland Jazz Festival
06/20 - Rotterdam, NL - LantarenVenster
06/28 - Saratoga Springs, NY - Saratoga Jazz Festival
07/02 - Gent, BE - Gent Jazz Festival
07/03 - Vitrolles, FR - Charlie Jazz Festival
07/05 - Vilafranca del Penedès, ES - Vijazz
07/07 - Vienne, FR - Jazz À Vienne
07/12 - Matosinhos, PT - Matosinhos Em Jazz
07/19 - Hartford, CT - Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz
08/09 - San Jose, CA - San Jose Jazz Summer Fest
09/05 - Charleston, SC - Low Country Jazz Festival
09/23 - Los Angeles, CA - Hollywood Bowl
10/03 - Germantown, TN - Highland Capital Performance Hall
10/08 - Rodilhan, FR - Nimes Metropole Jazz Festival

10/09 - Marciac, FR - l'Astrada
10/15 - Tourcoing, FR - Tourcoing Jazz Festival
10/22 - Philadelphia, PA - Ensemble Arts Philly
10/23 - New York, NY - Carnegie Hall - Zankel Hall
10/24 - Richmond, VA - University of Richmond
11/09 - Bydgoszcz, PL - Bydgoszcz Jazz Festival
11/12 - Trutnov, CZ - Festival Jazzinec Trutnov
11/14 - Groningen, NL - Rockit Festival
11/15 - Amsterdam, NL - Muziekgebouw
11/17 - Leverkusen, DE - Leverkusener Jazztage
11/20 - Zurich, CH - Moods
11/21 - Schaan, LI - TAK Theater Liechtenstein
11/22 - Munich, DE - Bergson Kunstkraftwerk

More dates to be announced