

PRESS RELEASE

After several years and countless gigs together, acclaimed Chicago jazz vocal/piano duo **Petra van Nuis** and **Dennis Luxion** have documented their synergistic collaboration with the recording **"Because We're Night People."**

In addition to the US release, **"Because We're Night People"** was re-released in **Japan** on **Muzak**, the record label responsible for introducing Petra to Japanese audiences by re-releasing two of her previous recordings. **"Because We're Night People"** was chosen by All Nippon Airways (Japan's largest airline) as in-flight entertainment for January/February 2019.

"Because We're Night People" features thirteen night-themed selections. Petra explains, *"By nature and work requirements Dennis and I are bona fide night people -- thus, this collection. We love the slower tempos. The dreamy, moody material inspires us. These songs were chosen to portray the varied emotions that occur in that magical suspended time after midnight and before the early bird's chirp asks why you're still awake."*

Dennis adds, *"Some night people are attracted to the activity, social scene, and music of bars and nightclubs. But others are attracted to the relative quiet, solitude, and intimacy that can be found at night, a time of introspection. As a musician, I often find myself amid the first type of night people, whereas personally I am of the second type. Hopefully both are represented on this recording."*

Obscurities like **"Night People," "Shadows Of Paris"** and singer/pianist Meredith d' Ambrosio's **"The Piano Player (A Thousand And One Saloons)"** contrast with familiar favorites like **"Count Your Blessings Instead Of Sheep."** Lush and tender interpretations of **"Dreamsville"** and **"While My Lover Sleeps"** are balanced with swingers **"Moonlight Saving Time"** and **"No Moon At All."**

The **Chicago Tribune** calls Dennis Luxion *"a veteran Chicago pianist of impeccable taste and considerable harmonic imagination."* A top-call sideman and a leader of his own ensembles, Dennis' early career started in Europe where for several years he was trumpeter **Chet Baker's** pianist making a number of recordings, television/radio appearances and tours throughout Europe. Since returning stateside, Luxion has worked with such legends as: **Steve Allen, Conte Candoli, Bill Frisell, Sheila Jordan, Morgana King, Lee Konitz, Houston Person, Claudio Roditi, Archie Shepp, Gunther Schuller** and **Toots Thielemans**, among others. In 2012, Luxion's Quartet toured Southern Africa as part of the **Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad** program administered by **Jazz at Lincoln Center** for the **US State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs**. Luxion's compositions and arrangements have been featured on many recordings including Chet Baker's **"Leaving."**

Petra van Nuis is a jazz vocalist described in **Downbeat Magazine** as having *"a light, gorgeous, and fairly delicate voice...a gift for melody and plenty of rhythmic confidence."* In addition to regular Chicago appearances, Petra appears nationally at festivals including the **Cleveland Classic Jazz Party**, the **Roswell Jazz Festival** and the **Chautauqua Jazz Party** with such swing luminaries as **Dan Barrett, Nicki Parrott, Ken Peplowski, John Di Martino** and **Rossano Sportiello**. Petra's twenty year musical collaboration with her husband, guitarist **Andy Brown**, has been documented on **"Lessons Lyrical"** and **"Far Away Places"** two critically acclaimed albums re-issued on the Japanese label **Muzak** and used as in flight entertainment by **All Nippon Airways**, Japan's largest airline. Petra has fronted her popular Chicago-style **Recession Seven** band for a decade. Featuring veteran horn-men **Eric Schneider, Russ Phillips** and **Bob Ojeda**, the classic swing collective has been featured at regional jazz societies, the **Chicago Jazz Festival** and on their 2012 recording **"Live In Chicago."**

In his liner notes for **“Because We're Night People,”** Michael Steinman of the popular **Jazz Lives** blog hails *"two singular souls allied by a deep purpose, to make us feel, to make us remember our nocturnal lives in their songs... the best efforts of two inventive explorers who do their best work after the sun goes down."*