

## Kevin Harris

### *Museum, Vol. 1*

SELF RELEASE

★★★

Inspired by the link between visual art and music, Boston-based pianist Kevin Harris bases his new album around the idea of a museum exhibition featuring art that deals with themes of strength, love, courage and self-awareness. It's a heavy task he's set up for himself, and he meets the challenge gracefully.

The stormy opener sets up a time and space continuum that's explored for the duration of the disc, which delves into blues, refashions a reggae classic and highlights Harris' fascination with compositional fluidity. A foreboding minor tone introduces "The Nile", enhanced by cymbal static and a hushed horn. Steve Langone sets up a hopeful 6/8 rhythm as the melody finds brighter footing.

Another noteworthy Harris original, "Pinched Nerve," pits a tense bass-and-horns pattern against needling outbreaks of dissonance that feed into an angular conversation among trumpet, Rhodes and drums. Renditions of Wayne Shorter's "Prince Of Darkness" and "You Are My Sunshine" embrace contrasts with the cool intensity of the former playing up the warm nostalgia of the latter. The pristine beauty of Harris' voice allows him to dodge a sentimentality bullet on "Redemption Song." While the last few tracks aren't as strong as the first, *Museum, Vol. 1* is overall smart, lyrical and engrossing.

—Jennifer Odell

***Museum, Vol. 1:*** The Nile; Pinched Nerve; Prince Of Darkness; You Are My Sunshine; The Dinosaur Suite; Redemption Song; Bluegrass; BBBB. (67:15)

**Personnel:** Kevin Harris, piano, Rhodes, vocal; Richie Barshay, drums (3, 4, 5); Steve Langone, drums (1, 2, 7, 8); Kendall Eddy, bass; Rick DiMuzio, tenor saxophone.

**Ordering info:** [www.KEVINHARRISPROJECT.COM](http://www.KEVINHARRISPROJECT.COM)

