



- [Graham Collier's site](#)



GRAHAM COLLIER

Graham Collier is one of the best known and most important British jazz composers and over a 40 year career, his list of compositions and commissions has grown to encompass ensembles around the world. He is well-known as an author and educator, having written seven books on jazz. Hoarded Dreams is a previously unreleased long-form composition heard here in a powerful live performance from 1983 by an international all-star band that includes Tomasz Stanko, Conny Bauer, Malcolm Griffiths, Eje Thelin, Ed Speight, Roger Dean, Ted Curson, John Surman, Manfred Schoof, Kenny Wheeler, Art Themen and many others. " I came across the phrase "Hoarded Dreams" in a book...it seemed an ideal title for this commission, [which] is the realisation of the jazz composer's constant dream: to be able to hand-pick a group of star musicians to perform a long composition written with absolutely no outside restrictions... Overall the piece inhabits (as indeed does most of my writing) that area between the purely written and the purely improvised."-Graham Collier. The energy of the ensemble performing the piece in front of a large and enthusiastic audience is very obvious on the recording and there's some great soloing as well as ensemble passages.



HOARDED DREAMS

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"The instrumentation is that of the classic big jazz band, yet it is deployed in a highly untraditional way.... 70 minutes of dazzling solos and exchanges, what really could be described as musical fireworks." - *The New Statesman*

"You couldn't tell where improvisation ended and writing took over.... The whole conception was bold and the playing magnificent." - *The Observer*

Collier's sympathetic background motifs and great stabbing ensemble chords... gave the clear signal that this was something special in jazz writing; something that was reflected in the inspiration which the piece gave to the soloists." - *The Wire*

Called "A pioneer...a true British jazz original." by The Times, "An inventive and underrated jazz figure" by Jazziz and "Britain's most original jazz talent." by The Financial Times, Graham Collier is one of the best known British jazz composers, and over a 40 year career, his list of compositions and commissions has grown to encompass ensembles around the world. He is well known as an author and educator, having written seven books on jazz. He was born in Tynemouth, England in 1937. He won a Downbeat scholarship to Berklee School of Music, Boston, studying with Herb Pomeroy and becoming its first British graduate in 1963. Returning to Britain, he formed the first of many line-ups known as Graham Collier Music, which over the years has featured almost every British jazz musician of note. **Workpoints** consists of two previously unreleased concerts from 'a golden age of British jazz': one from 1968 and one from 1975. The music is composed with lots of room for contributions from the individual players, and in that regard, might be comparable to the work of one of Graham's heroes, Charles Mingus. The album features a huge number of well known jazz musicians, such as: Harry Beckett, Mike Gibbs, Karl Jenkins, Frank Ricotti, Henry Lowther, John Marshall, John Surman, Art Themen, Kenny Wheeler and others. Included in the booklet are archival photos, notes and comments from Graham.



WORKPOINTS

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