

# Jon De Lucia Group As The River Sings

Street Date: January 31st, 2017



## Jon De Lucia Group

Multi-instrumentalist **Jon De Lucia** has led a wide variety of projects since moving to New York City in 2005. After achieving notoriety in his hometown of Boston with a band of future stars, including Nir Felder, Leo Genovese and Ziv Ravitz, he moved to New York and continued developing his original music with bandmates including Kris Davis, Pete Rende and Thomas Morgan. His first record, **Face no Face**, was released in 2006 to critical acclaim. The sound of the band reflected De Lucia's interest in Yoruba bata music and the M-base influence of fellow altoists Steve Coleman and Greg Osby. After this, De Lucia went through a period of rediscovery, often looking to the past to move forward. Studying the counterpoint of JS Bach and GF Handel and refining his melodicism by studying Renaissance polyphony led to the Luce Trio, with guitarist Ryan Ferreira and bassist Chris Tordini. This group tackled the early music repertoire with a truly original vision and released their efforts on **Pieces, Vol. 1** in 2012.

This project marks De Lucia's return to the quartet format and the modern jazz idiom, though the music often defies that category. The focus is melody, some as simple as nursery rhymes, others extensive intervallic excursions. From the opening chant-like drone, to the Irish inspired St. Brendan's Isle, this music is a culmination of De Lucia's interests in a broad variety of musical traditions and a statement of the great sensitivity of the musicians in the quartet.

De Lucia met **Tommy Crane** while the latter was in Greg Osby's band and the former Osby's student. **Chris Tordini** is a member of the still active Luce Trio, which is currently rehearsing a new set of music featuring the work of medieval composer Guillaume De Machaut. Guitarist **Greg Ruggiero** is De Lucia's closest collaborator. The two have refined their playing by working together regularly in NYC clubs, playing standard repertoire and learning from the resident elders of the jazz scene.

This band has an energy and a lyricism all its own. There is a group awareness and intention to make each of these songs sing. **As The River Sings** is a beautiful episode in the development of this band and its leader.

### Tracks

1. Opening (2:20)
2. Caterina (7:39)
3. Festa (3:31)
4. Up Out (5:49)
5. Snake Creeps Down (5:30)
6. Blockhouse #1 (3:24)
7. KJ (for Charlie) (3:41)
8. Sinus Suite A: Chickering (2:54)
9. Sinus Suite B: Into The River (3:04)
10. Seven Ate Three For You (3:40)
11. St. Brendan's Isle (6:10)
12. Stirring Curds (3:32)

All compositions by Jon De Lucia

### Personnel

Jon De Lucia - Alto Saxophone, Sruti Box, Alto Clarinet, Clarinet, Flute  
Greg Ruggiero - Electric Guitar  
Chris Tordini - Acoustic Bass  
Tommy Crane - Drums

### Credits

Recorded live to 2 inch tape at Seaside Studios, Brooklyn, NY July 21, 2014.  
Engineer: Mitch Rackin  
Mixed and Mastered by David Darlington of Bass Hit Studios.  
Produced by Jon De Lucia and Jordi Pujol

### More Information:

[www.jondelucia.com](http://www.jondelucia.com)



## Press

Praise for **Face no Face** and the **Luce Trio**:

“Boston-based alto and soprano saxophonist De Lucia stitches together edgy improvising with surprise-filled writing that sounds both mysterious and eminently accessible.”

**-Bob Young, The Boston Herald**

“De Lucia is refreshingly personal in his improvisations and the charts apparently are fairly flexible, leaving a lot of space for soloist and supporters to stretch out. Let’s hope the fresh air continues....”

**-Stu Vandermark, Cadence Magazine**

“The alto saxophonist creates music that moves deliberately, with melodies that are as rich as they are gentle... This music, so finely created by Messrs. De Lucia, Ferreira and Tordini, shines with intelligence and spirit.”

**-Richard Kamins, Step Tempest Blog**

“De Lucia imbues solemn austere music with a candle’s flickering warmth.”

**-Dave Sumner, birdistheworm.com**

“This is a stunning recording. Adventurous, organic and an incredibly intimate performance that should cut a incredibly wide path for both jazz and classical music lovers.”

**-Brent Black, Critical Jazz**

“An incredibly beautiful and interesting take on early music.”

**-Mark Saleski, [somethingelsereviews.com](http://somethingelsereviews.com)**

## Bios

**Jon De Lucia** is a Brooklyn based saxophonist and composer. Originally from Quincy, MA, Jon has become an integral part of the New York scene. Predominantly a student of jazz, he also has a deep interest in the folkloric music and instruments of Cuba, Japan, Ireland and Italy, having performed on a variety of ethnic flutes, drums and stringed instruments. Jon has led his groups and played as a sideman in Boston, New York and all over Japan with such musicians as Bill Crow, Michael Kanan, David Tronzo, Bob Moses, John Lockwood, Billy Mintz, Steve Little, Putter Smith and Thomas Morgan. He leads the Jon De Lucia Group, and the baroque improvising Luce Trio. In 2017 he will be publishing his first article on Lester Young for the Jazz Research Journal, along with a saxophone exercise book derived by the music of JS Bach. He has released two records as a leader and continues to compose, perform and teach privately in New York City.

**Greg Ruggiero** has emerged as one of the most sought after jazz guitarists in the city. He has performed at many of the top clubs including Birdland, the Jazz Standard, Smalls, and the Jazz Gallery. He has performed with such artists as Bill Crow, Michael Kanan, Frank Morgan, Greg Osby, Mark Turner, Jane Monheit, and Luisa Sobral. His music has allowed him to perform in Japan, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Switzerland. As a leader, Ruggiero has two records on the Fresh Sound/ New Talent label. Greg has recorded on vocalist Luisa Sobral’s debut record, on Universal Records, saxophonist Logan Richardson’s “Ethos” for Greg Osby’s Inner Circle Records and a multitude of independent releases by numerous artists.

**Christopher Tordini** is an in-demand bassist in the NYC music scene. In addition to Jon De Lucia’s Luce Trio, he currently plays with the Becca Stevens Band, Andy Milne’s Dapp Theory, Tyshawn Sorey’s Oblique, the Jim Black Trio and Ilusha Tsinadze’s Mother Tongue. His own band, Tiger Blood, plays at various venues around New York. Christopher also co-leads the I.E. trio with Michael Pinto and Tommy Crane.

**Tommy Crane** has toured internationally and throughout the United States with the Mingus Big Band, Jeremy Pelt, The Greg Osby Five, David Binney and others. While living in New York, he has performed with Bob Belden, Joe Lovano, Becca Stevens, David Liebman, Mark Turner, Ben Street, Tony Malaby, Aaron Parks, Logan Richardson, *Shirt*, and more. He currently appears regularly with Logan Richardson’s *Shift* and many others.



# Liner Notes for As The River Sings:

It's gotten to where Jon De Lucia can weave a melody between heartbeats. His sound, grown more expansive with time, shows its strength when coalescing into the softest voice. It's a big reason why his every note is a solemn one, even when his alto sax is booming out a solo, and it's the source of the quiet nobility that flows within the confluence of songs of a cheery demeanor and a focused intensity.

With his 2006 release *Face No Face*, De Lucia provided signs of what was to come. Songs cut from the same canvas upon which he paints renditions of Japanese folksongs speak to the pursuit of a zen-like existence on an album shaped by the forces of turbulence. But even within those challenging environs, De Lucia's melodic interludes point to the emergence of a grace under fire.

It was years later and with a new ensemble that Jon De Lucia revealed what was only hinted at previously.

His Luce Trio led out with strong classical influences by embracing both Handel and Bach in the improvising-friendly medium of Baroque music. Recorded in the historic St Ann and the Holy Trinity church, the 2012 release *Pieces, Vol.1* zeroed in on the reverential tones that he once merely dabbled in. It's an album of sheer beauty, and looking back, it's almost blindingly obvious that De Lucia had discovered the sound most suited to him, a sensation not unlike the sun majestically appearing out from behind dark clouds.

But this wasn't the pinnacle of De Lucia's creative development. There was the matter of how to re-enter a straight-ahead jazz environment and adapt that approach so it thrives even when the post-bop skirmishes render the attainment of serenity a formidable endeavor.

De Lucia's newest album, *As the River Sings*, is positive evidence that he's advanced toward that end.

Greg Ruggiero's electric guitar provokes the dancing flames on "Snake Creeps Down" and Tommy Crane's drums instigate a punctuated chatter on "Festa," and yet the tone from De Lucia's alto sax wills an undercurrent of peacefulness upon the boisterous tempo. And when De Lucia is the one inching the temperature up, it's only as the shadow to bassist Chris Tordini's brighter light on "Up Out."

The melodic sighs of "Caterina" and the two-part "Sinus Suite" are the motions of flickering candlelight, tiny repetitions of emphasis and enchantment. That the heat rises on "Caterina" doesn't magnify the flame, but acts as the necessary reminder that melodies, no matter how lovely, too, can burn. And "Stirring Curds" shows how a solemn ambiance is no obstacle to expressions of immaculate tunefulness. The melody twists and turns with a beguiling grace, and the rhythm section proceeds as if humming the tune under its breath.

And as has become De Lucia's talent, the softest sounds on *As the River Sings* resonate with the greatest strength. Like a heartbeat.