



*"...for all its complexities, his music first and foremost
packs an emotional wallop."*

PETER HUM
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

M I C H A E L W E B S T E R

S A X O P H O N I S T / C O M P O S E R

W W W . M I C H A E L W E B S T E R M U S I C . C O M

I N F O @ M I C H A E L W E B S T E R M U S I C . C O M

“Momentum is simply beautiful.”

MICHAEL FAGIEN
JAZZIZ MAGAZINE



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|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. First Sunrise | 11:03 |
| 2. Train Song | 12:35 |
| 3. Indecision | 7:05 |
| 4. Beam Me Up | 8:41 |
| 5. Introspective | 5:23 |
| 6. Momentum | 6:25 |
| 7. Erica's Song | 4:50 |
| 8. Train Song Reprise | 4:00 |
| 9. Simple Wish | 7:35 |

All music composed & arranged by
Michael Webster/onemanmusic.com (SOCAN)

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INGRID JENSEN - trumpet, flugelhorn
MICHAEL WEBSTER - tenor saxophone
CHRIS DINGMAN - vibraphone
JESSE LEWIS - guitar
IKE STURM - bass
JARED SCHONIG - drums


OA2RECORDS

“Webster is creating a new standard that others will turn into cliché.”

CHRIS SPECTOR
MIDWEST RECORD

“This is an album that creeps up on the ear, and like an ocean tide slowly overtaking the shore, before one knows it, the music has completely immersed the listener.”

DAVE SUMNER
BIRD IS THE WORD

Tenor Saxophonist and composer Michael Webster manages to reside comfortably in the crease of New-York-style instrumental improvisational music while maintaining an eclecticism and sincerity all his own. The same can be said of Webster as of his contemporaries Dave Douglas and Vijay Iyer – that he is not merely a musician but a facilitator of musical collaborations in whole greater than the sum of their parts and that he truly plays not only the horn, but the band.

A native of Ottawa, Canada, and son of a University of Ottawa music professor and a National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada violist, Webster releases his second solo album, *Momentum*, this year. His first, *Leading Lines*, received round praise for its sophisticated take on accessible material. Webster is known for his love of Afro-Latin music and extensive collaborations with some of its most luminary exponents, including William Cepeda, Arturo O’Farrill, and John Benitez, and the influence is audible in *Leading Lines*. *Momentum* exhibits elements of Webster’s trademark style, but is notably different, building upon the artist’s experience in the intervening years.

Webster, whose initial move to New York City was made possible by a \$20,000 J.B.C Watkins Award from the Canada Council for the Arts, graduated from Manhattan School of Music in 2004. The same year he had begun collaborating with legendary trombonist and percussionist William Cepeda, who recognized Webster’s particular genius for fleshing, transforming, and orchestrating basic melodic kernels, and hired him to arrange for and play saxophone in his band, which toured Puerto Rico in April and May of 2004. In 2009 Cepeda and Webster produced *Posesión*, a concert length piece for big band and strings adapted from Cepeda’s ideas.

In 2006 Webster released his first solo album, *Leading Lines*, which featured Grammy-winning bassist John Benitez, and drew heavily on Webster’s Latin Jazz influence. The record showcases nuanced and surprising takes on Webster’s characteristic lyrical melodies, brought to life by a variety of ensembles ranging from duo to nonet and encompassing a range of moods from brash big-band shout choruses to tender string swells. Of *Leading Lines*, pianist Garry Dial wrote, “the orchestrations are exquisite. The use of strings, woodwinds and brass evokes the genius of Gil Evans and Maria Schneider.”

An ever-expanding portfolio of commissions, including those for American Idol Contestants, Arturo O’Farrill, and the Saint Joseph Symphony Orchestra, propelled Webster’s career. In 2008 O’Farrill’s Grammy-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra commissioned Webster to compose an original work for big band. The resulting work, *Mombogro*, premiered at New York’s Symphony Space, with Michael conducting.

Re-appropriated from album title, *Leading Lines* became the name of Michael’s 17-piece working large ensemble, which in 2010 gave a concert at New York City’s iconic Saint Peter’s Church, featuring legendary alto-saxophonist Dick Oatts. In the same year, Webster won his third grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, and arranged a work for 75 musicians for the New York Jazz Academy that was performed in Carnegie Hall. 2011 saw Webster beginning to lead a small ensemble, the Michael Webster Quintet, in performance at venues around New York. The group was featured at All Night Soul with famed Canadian trumpeter Ingrid Jensen in an incarnation that eventually recorded *Momentum*, Webster’s second album, at Systems Two studios in Brooklyn.

Momentum is notable as a departure from the genre-based music of *Leading Lines*, into stream-of-consciousness storytelling and ambitious long-form explorations. Webster plays nimbly with the textural and orchestrational options his unconventional six-piece ensemble allows, featuring Ingrid Jensen’s trumpet and Chris Dingman’s vibes, and stretches the possibilities of form. What will likely endear this album to casual listeners and critics alike, though, is the strength and clarity of its thematic material. Central to Webster’s work, and lending it a universality and catharsis transcendent of its instrumental setting, is the feeling that the tune has absolute primacy.

Webster lives in Brooklyn, New York, and continues to compose, perform and tour with both his own groups and as a sideman.

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“A beautifully imaginative record.”

DONNY McCASLIN
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING SAXOPHONIST

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| 1. Integrity (M. Webster/J. Benitez) | 5:47 |
| 2. Perspective | 8:11 |
| 3. Psalm (M. Webster/J. Benitez) | 7:30 |
| 4. Seven Seas (How Deep Is The Ocean, I. Berlin) | 8:05 |
| 5. New Moon | 5:33 |
| 6. Oneman's Blues | 5:47 |
| 7. Leading Lines | 6:54 |
| 8. Horizons | 8:00 |
| 9. Reverence (G. Webster) | 4:27 |

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MICHAEL WEBSTER - tenor sax, clarinet, compositions, conductor
MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ - trumpet, flugelhorn
GORDON WEBSTER - piano
JOHN BENITEZ - bass
OBED CALVAIRE - drums

ADAM CZEREPINSKI - trumpet (tracks 5, 6, 8)
ERICA VON KLEIST - alto sax, flute
BEN GRIFFIN - trombone
CARL MARAGHI - baritone sax, bass clarinet
JESSE LEWIS - guitar

EARL MANEIN, BRETT OMARA - violins
JOHANNA BEAVER, MARLA HANSEN - violas
JESSIE REAGEN - cello
DAN LOOMIS - contrabass

MICHELLE FARAH - oboe
AARON KORN - french horn
SAMANTHA BRENNER - bassoon



“Michael Webster's creations are long, unfurling musical journeys chock full of content. Singable melodies come swathed in a background of advanced, modern harmonies and adventurous, challenging rhythms.”

PETER HUM
OTTAWA CITIZEN

“Michael Webster has produced a beautiful CD of original music. His ideas as a composer and saxophonist are heartfelt and clear. Keep an eye on him!”

CHRIS POTTER
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SAXOPHONIST