

# NATIVE SOUL

The collective quartet known as Native Soul has earned a reputation for inspired performances among audiences and fellow musicians alike. In 2011 their second CD *Soul Step* was released and quickly rose to #18 on the national Jazzweek radio charts, staying close to that position for many months. Native Soul's latest recording *ONE MIND* is surging up the charts: already at #26 in its third week. *ONE MIND* showcases the depth and versatility of this New York-based cooperative: exciting up-tempo, deep grooves, modern compositions, and reinvented pop tunes. All elevated by the telepathic interaction for which they are known.

Native Soul is comprised of 4 uniquely gifted instrumentalist/composers. Originally from the Bronx, saxophonist Peter Brainin moved to Boston after high school to study music at New England Conservatory. He met drummer Steve Johns and the two forged a friendship that continued when they both moved back to New York and began performing and recording together between various high-profile gigs. Marcus McLaurine was already one of the most sought after bass players on the scene when he first met and played with 19-year-old pianist Noah Haidu at a gig in Brooklyn, NY. Haidu was in college at the time but the two kept in touch and played together whenever possible. After Noah moved to New York and established himself as an important new pianist on the scene they decided to form a working group: McLaurine suggested they seek out Steve Johns and Peter Brainin and Native Soul was born. The band's initial appearances hosting a jam session in Brooklyn led to their first recording, *ROUGH JAZZ* (Apria Records, 2006).

**“incredibly inventive...killer original tunes...an organic fusion of four voices coming together in a musical synergy seldom heard”**

—**Brent Black** / [www.criticaljazz.com](http://www.criticaljazz.com), september 2012

A true musical collaboration, Native Soul brings together the experience and talent of these four artists. Bass virtuoso Marcus McLaurine became a driving force in Clark Terry's quintet shortly after moving to New York and has played with Terry's quintet and big band ever since. He has also shared the stage with Lou Donaldson, Hank Jones, Abbey Lincoln, the Count Basie Orchestra, and Kenny Burrell. The exciting young pianist Noah Haidu is a rising star on the New York jazz scene and an accomplished composer. His credits include gigs and recordings with Jeremy Pelt, Mike Stern, Duane Eubanks, Jon Irabagon, and Winard Harper. The brilliant saxophonist Peter Brainin is prolific in the jazz and Afro-Cuban jazz worlds: he has performed with Mongo Santamaria, Hilton Ruiz, Joey Calderazzo, Chico O'Farrill, and is a featured member of Arturo O'Farrill's Grammy winning Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. Dynamic and hard swinging drummer Steve Johns has worked with Sonny Fortune, Randy Brecker, Stanley Turrentine, Jimmy Heath, and Dr. Billy Taylor.

During their six years together Native Soul has crafted their own powerful voice built on groove and feeling. Their three recorded CD's *ONE MIND* (American Showplace), *SOUL STEP* (Talking Drum Records), and *ROUGH JAZZ* (Apria Records) show their distinctive musical personality and a wide range of influences including straight-ahead jazz, gospel, Brazilian, funk, Afro-Cuban, and blues. Alongside their own inspired originals, Native Soul recordings also feature creative re-interpretations of classic jazz standards like *The End of A Love Affair*, as well as 'new standards' by Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Wonder, John Lennon and Luther Vandross. In the New York area Native Soul has appeared at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Smalls, Fat Cat and Bahai Center and internationally at Centro Ecuatoriano-Norteamericano in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

As each new performance and recording brings their music to an ever-widening audience Native Soul will continue to win over fans at home and abroad with their exhilarating music.

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C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

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## NATIVE SOUL *REVIEWS*

**"Groove is essential to this collective... Johns sanctified Deep Blue has Brainin testifying on tenor..."**

—**Bill Milkowski**, Jazz Times

**"Haidu's soulful riffs on the keyboard had an intense gravity ... McLaurine's adept solos were refreshing ... the dynamic communication between McLaurine and drummer Steve Johns was illuminating."**

—**Ivana NG**, Allaboutjazz.com

**"Peter Brainin is one of the most recognizable and brilliant saxophonists in the jazz world today....an amazing selection of hard-swinging contemporary jazz..."**

—**Edward Blanco**, Audiophile ejazznews

**"This CD is full of great originals, revamped standards, first rate playing, and great interaction"**

—**Randy Brecker**, (trumpeter and composer)

**"If anyone asks you what direction jazz is taking today, I would suggest they listen to the CD Soul Step by Native Soul....music that is yesterday, today and tomorrow."**

—**Don Albert**, Newstime.co.za

**"One thing the 11 pieces have in common is groove: a pulsing feeling permeates each track."**

—**Doug Simpson**, Audiophile Audition web magazine

**"Native Soul is a New York-based quartet that seems to function as a genuinely egalitarian collective...the bandmembers all do an excellent job of balancing tight discipline with musical adventurousness."**

—**Rick Anderson**, allmusic.com

**"stylistically coherent and well executed... the band really nails this one"**

—**Greg Simmons**, Allaboutjazz.com

**"This collection of eleven tunes played by these fine musicians is superb. This is a CD to listen to over and over....these guys play spectacularly well."**

—**Glenn A. Mitchell**, LA Jazz Scene

**"A soulful way is what the Native Soul quartet brings to the table.....Pianist Noah Haidu gets the Tyner-meets-Cedar Walton elementality going and can also hit the hard bop route with that "soul" so present in the group name....very well done."**

—**Greg Edwards**, Gapplegate Music Review

**"Soul Step", is among the best I've heard this year!"**

—**Dick Metcalf**, [www.rotcodzzaj.com/wordpress](http://www.rotcodzzaj.com/wordpress)

**"...a combination that will inspire..."**

—**Michael Steinman**, Cadence Magazine

**"Their combined styles offer a spirited improvisational energy that raises the stakes on today's Jazz scene."**

—**Ron Scott**, writer for Amsterdam News, Jazz Improv Magazine

**"This is a solid effort both individually and collectively leading us to repeated play and anticipation of the next step."**

—**D. Oscar Groomes**, O's Place Jazz Magazine

**"NATIVE SOUL is the name of a quartet that seems to burst at the seams with talent. Their sound is so well melded that the four players suggest the wealth of tone and sound produced by the Big Bands. But they go a step beyond big sound and instead turn into a quartet that understands completely the respect of each other's talent, making it almost impossible to single out a lead person. This is first class/first rate jazz and one of the finest overall albums to be released this year."**

—**Grady Harp**, Amazon