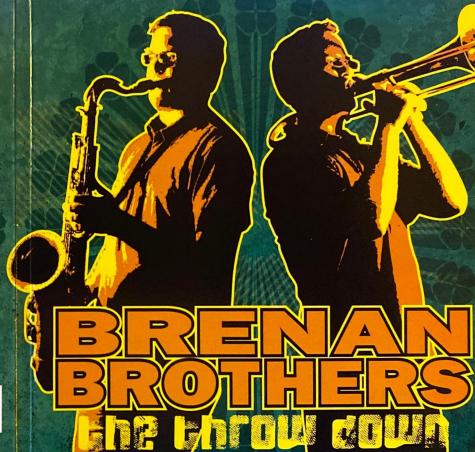
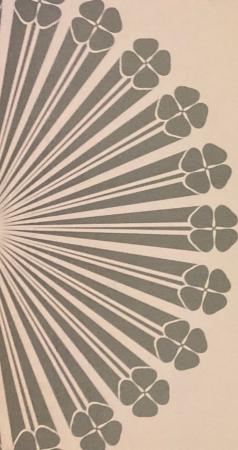
1. The Throw Down the throw cown Featuring: Ralph Bowen, Terell Stafford, 3. Violet to Blue Geoffrey Keezer, Dana Hall and Rubim de Toledo 4. Bad Penny All songs

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- 1. The Throw Down J. Brenan
- 2. Prince of Orphans J. Brenan
- 3. Violet to Blue J. Brenan
- 4. Bad Penny C. Brenan
- 5. Kingdom Come C. Brenan

 - 6. Gemini R. Bowen
- 7. Were the Colour C. Brenan
- 8. el Gordo J. Brenan

All tracks - BMI

Recorded by Barry Allen at Homestead Recorders, Edmonton, Alberta -April 13th, 2008 Mixed and Mastered by Brad Turner. Vancouver, British Columbia Produced by Ralph Bowen Design by Scott MacAuley

Jim Brenan - Tenor Saxophone Craig Brenan - Trombone Geoffrey Keezer - Piano Rubim de Toledo - Bass Dana Hall - Drums Ralph Bowen - Alto Saxophone, tracks 2.3.4.5.6.8 Terell Stafford - Trumpet, tracks 3.6

Bosphorus cymbals.

Ralph Bowen plays Selmer Paris saxophones; Vandoren reeds, mouthpieces, and ligatures exclusively. Dana Hall plays Yamaha drums and

Terell Stafford plays Selmer trumpets

Brenan Bros. The Throw Down

A person could argue that Jazz is one big brotherhood (and sisterhood). But in terms of artistic compatibility, it's har to top actual blood ties, Jazz teems with examples of brother joining brother in the aim of making music Heath, Jon Brecker, Marsalls, Grubbs, Eubanks, Strickland, Moutin, Rodriguez Curtis, Win The Throw Down, trombonist Craig Bre and tenor saxophonist Jim Brean throw their hats in the ring, working for the first time as co-leaders. The band is top-grade, the music new and the chemistry hot from the first count-off.

Halling from Edmonton, Alberta, the identical twins Craig and Jim are part of a rich Canadian jazz legacy, though they both pursued higher learning in the finest of America's jazz labs: Craig at Boston's New England Conservatory, Jim in the Masters program at New Jersey's Rutgers University, While at Rutgers, Jim came under the tutelage of master saxophonist Raiph Bowen, and the two formed a lasting musical bond. The Throw Down gains not only from Bowen's searching musical bond. The Throw Down gains not only from Bowen's searching musical and the saxophone, but also his skills as a producer.

The music Craig and Jim write is uniquely their own, "says Bowen, and indeed, the two frave amassed a strong envelope pushing record, Jim's bracing tenor work and inventive writing can be heard on his most recent a burn in Spectre, with an all-Canadian band that features hubin de Toledo, or bassist on The Throw Down, Toledo, or Brazi descent, is also founder of the fine Edmonton-based tait in group Jabomal, which has enlisted Jim's talents as well. Calleding the Modo Trio, has explored new paths for the underesting ted trombone, using harmonizers and ambient textures to mix lazz improvisation with electronica and other contemporary forms. The Uninvited, Modo's collaboration with renowned keyboardist-producer Jamie Saffywas one of the sleeper highlights of 2006.

A new album with the great Wayne Horvitz is in the works.

The Throw Down captures the Brenans in a fiery straightahead context, with the brilliant Geoffrey Keezer raising the lame on plano and Rhodes. Two tracks feature Terell Stafford, the Philadelphia-based trumpeter and educator whose current guintet includes Dana Hall on drums. The versatile Hall, who also appears on Bowen's organ-driven quintet lession Five, guildes the Brenan Brothers consistently on their course. These intertwined histories make for glowing.

Jim's leadoff track, "The Throw Down," ushers in high spirits but a certain dark energy, with horns and piano trading eights over unrelenting 4/4 swing. Craig's "Kingdom Come" reintroduces some of that full-ignition tury. But mood with the known Downs enticingly mixed: Jim's "Prince of Orphans and "El Gordo" edge into Rhodes-colored asymmetric funk, while his "Violet to Blue" relies on a classic, simmering minor blues feel, Craig's "Bad Penny" carries tunges of Ario Cuban 6/8, and his lyrical straight-eighth ballad "Were the Colouri, Captures legato musings from both horns, highlighting Keezer at peak sensitivity. And Bowers' "Gemin!" throws ambiguous, efflorescent harmonies into relief. prompting upexpected turns in form and solo interaction.

"We've been talking about this project for years, but we never seemed to be in the same place long enough. Craig remarks. But even if it's a first in some respects, The Throw Down builds on a longstanding musical — not samply genetic — relationship." Jim and I do play live together, and we've dones os since we started making music. After completing other projects, the time was right for this one to be next." And so the Brenans have made good. They we thrown down, as it were, betting not just on an inviolable fraternal bond, but on their individual artistic identities as

David R. Adler Philadelphia, August 2008