



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Brian Eaton's "Trail of Contrition" Brings Jazz Fusion to New Frontiers



*The boundary-pushing album fuses genres from jazz to Americana, paying homage to legends while carving its own path.*

**PORTLAND, OR** (27 December 2024) —Portland-based multi-instrumentalist, producer, and composer **Brian Eaton** has unveiled his sixth studio album, *Trail of Contrition*, available now on Eatin' Records. This vibrant jazz fusion project stands at the crossroads of diverse American musical traditions, blending elements of jazz, country, bluegrass, folk, rock, rhythm and blues, gospel, and Americana into an adventurous, genre-bending sonic journey.

The album's centerpiece is Eaton's ambitious cover of the Pat Metheny Group's "Travels," the Grammy-winning live track that has captivated audiences since its debut. Paying homage to Metheny's unparalleled artistry, Eaton brings a fresh interpretation to the beloved classic, retaining its sweeping, emotive feel in the spirit of the '80s era PMG while incorporating elements of American roots music that give it an earthy texture.

Eaton also nods to jazz tradition with a striking interpretation of the jazz standard "Detour Ahead," a soulful ballad immortalized by artists like Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan. As one of the album's lead singles, Eaton's rendition of "Detour Ahead" finds the sweet spot between reverence and innovation, blending lyrical guitar lines with lush harmonic arrangements of delicate slow strings that evoke both melancholy and hope. His expressive playing offers a contemporary twist while keeping the emotional core and legacy of the song intact. Both

“Detour Ahead” and “Travels,” which were released earlier this year as a two-track single, have fresh alternative mixes for the new album.

*Trail of Contrition* showcases Eaton’s mastery of multiple genres, with compositions that stretch the limits of conventional jazz fusion. Tracks are infused with the rustic essence of Americana, the energy of rock, and the intricate improvisational interplay of jazz. Eaton’s meticulous production as a sonic alchemist highlights his ability to create a cohesive and immersive experience, taking the listener on a winding journey through musical terrains that might otherwise seem incompatible.

“I wanted the album to feel less like a genre mashup and more like a conversation between them,” said Eaton. “A conversation that conveys an instrumental meditation on the shared human experiences of sorrow, hope, and redemption—one that invites the listener to reflect, meander, and, ultimately, find catharsis.”

In addition to the inspired covers, the album features original compositions that weave together intricate arrangements, lyrical melodies, atmospheric layers, and rhythms evoking the sweeping landscapes and back roads of the American heartland that feel both expansive and deeply intimate. Eaton’s versatility as a musician is on full display—his guitar work is both technical and deeply expressive, while his use of other stringed instruments, keyboards, percussion, and production techniques brings out the richness of each track.

The multi-instrumentalist, producer, and composer is known for his genre-defying approach to music. With a career spanning several decades, Eaton has worked across a variety of musical styles, from jazz fusion to rock, continually pushing the envelope of sonic experimentation which has garnished him praise from jazz greats Jean-Luc Ponty, esteemed drummer Paul Wertico (Pat Metheny Group), and saxophonist Frank Catalano.

*Trail of Contrition* promises to be a standout release for 2024-25, drawing in fans from across the musical spectrum. The new album is available now on all major streaming platforms.

***Trail of Contrition* Tracklist:**

1. Where Rivers Meet the Plains (Eaton) 12:36
2. Travels - Trail Mix (Metheny / Mays) 5:10
3. Valleys Converge (Eaton) 5:29
4. Trail of Contrition (Eaton) 3:17
5. Detour Ahead - Trail Mix (Ellis / Frigo / Carter) 4:02
6. Inexpressible Words (Eaton) 5:49

For more information, please visit [BrianEaton.com](http://BrianEaton.com)

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For press inquiries, interviews, or review copies of *Trail of Contrition*, please contact: **Alma Dickinson** at: [eatinrecords@live.com](mailto:eatinrecords@live.com)

[Online Press Kit \(EPK\)](#): includes music (SoundCloud player), one-sheet, bio, photos, videos, press, links, events, discography...

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