



**RACHEL'S CLASSICAL UPBRINGING** – HER MOTHER WAS AN OPERA SINGER AND SHE BEGAN VOICE LESSONS HERSELF AT AN EARLY AGE – WAS INTERRUPTED BY HER IMMERSION IN JAZZ AS A TEENAGER. AT AGE 15, SHE WENT TO A SUMMER SESSION AT THE BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND LATER STUDIED WITH PIANISTS JOANNE BRACKEEN AND RICHIE BEIRACH, FOLLOWED BY JAZZ STUDIES AT THE NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY LANDED GIGS WITH MIKE MAINIERI'S STEPS AHEAD IN 1990 AND THE AL DI MEOLA GROUP IN 1992 BEFORE APPRENTICING WITH MASTER COMPOSER WAYNE SHORTER. HER TENURE IN PETER GABRIEL'S BAND DURING HIS GROWING UP TOURS FROM 2002 TO 2006 FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR TO THE ROCK WORLD, AND SHE'S BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF BLENDING ALTERNATIVE ROCK AND JAZZ EVER SINCE IN HER OWN TRIO.

**OMAR'S ROOTS ARE STRICTLY IN JAZZ.** HIS FATHER HASAN HAKIM WAS A TROMBONIST WHO PLAYED WITH SUCH JAZZ LEGENDS AS DUKE ELLINGTON, COUNT BASIE AND LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND OFTEN BROUGHT HIS YOUNG SON ALONG WITH HIM TO GIGS (EVEN ALLOWING HIM TO SIT IN AT THE AGE OF 10). GROWING UP IN JAMAICA, QUEENS WITH SUCH OTHER MUSICALLY-INCLINED FRIENDS AS BASSIST MARCUS MILLER, KEYBOARDIST BERNARD WRIGHT, TRUMPETER TOM BROWNE AND DRUMMER LENNY WHITE AND LATER ATTENDING THE HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ART IN MANHATTAN PUT OMAR ON A TRACK TOWARD A CAREER IN MUSIC. HIS BIG BREAK CAME WHEN HE JOINED THE PREMIER FUSION GROUP WEATHER REPORT IN 1982. HE SUBSEQUENTLY VENTURED INTO THE POP REALM BY TOURING AND RECORDING WITH SUPERSTARS LIKE STING, MADONNA AND DAVID BOWIE WHILE ALSO APPEARING ON ALBUMS BY MICK JAGGER (1987'S PRIMITIVE COOL), DIRE STRAITS (1985'S BROTHERS IN ARMS, 1988'S MONEY FOR NOTHING), MARIAH CAREY (1990'S MARIAH CAREY) AND MICHAEL JACKSON (1995'S HISTORY).



**“THE NORTH AMERICAN DEBUT OF THIS STUNNING NEW BAND** WITH DRUMMER OMAR HAKIM, PIANIST RACHEL Z AND BASSIST SOLOMON DORSEY. YOU'LL HEAR AN ORIGINAL DROPPED IN HERE AND THERE, AND SOMETHING BY NICOLAZZO'S OLD BOSS WAYNE SHORTER, BUT THIS IS PRINCIPALLY A CHANCE TO PUT A TERRIFIC JAZZ TWIST ON ROCK MUSIC THAT HAS TOUCHED THE PLAYERS DEEPLY - WITH A SONGBOOK THAT STRETCHES FROM ALICE IN CHAINS TO COLDPLAY, DEPECHE MODE, DUNGEN, POLICE AND STONE TEMPLE PILOTS. THE WAY THEY STRETCHED "KING OF PAIN" AND "ANGRY CHAIR" WAS FASCINATING.”

*KEN FRANKLING, ALL ABOUT JAZZ*