



## New Release

STREET DATE: January 16, 2026

RADIO ADD DATE: January 12, 2026

# MICHAEL DEASE

## WITH THE MSU JAZZ TROMBONES SPARTAN STRONG

*"Michael Dease is one of the Giants of the trombone. I was very fortunate to have played with JJ Johnson, Curtis Fuller, Slide Hampton, Al Grey, the other Giants of that instrument."* **Jimmy Heath, Legendary Saxophonist & NEA Jazz Master**

Much in the way Michael Dease has defined the state-of-the-art for jazz trombone over the last two decades, his effectiveness in shaping the next generation of players also requires inspired superlatives. A 2025 Guggenheim Fellow, and Distinguished Professor in Rodney Whitaker's renowned Jazz Department at Michigan State University, Dease has been central to fostering MSU's reputation as a thriving center of creative musical development. "Spartan Strong," while possibly implying a football cheer, in this case reflects the powerful musical instincts, exhilarating orchestrations, and uninhibited improvisational prowess of these 18 members of his teaching studio. Along with the rhythm section of Xavier Davis, Jared Beckstead-Craan, and Keith Hall, the ensemble tackles arrangements of several originals, and old & new standards, while stylistically spanning Afro-Cuban grooves, lush trombone choir passages, and unabashed swing. The future, as witnessed here, is in fine hands.

1. **Huesos Con Clave** 5:49
2. **Remembrance** 3:51
3. **Evidence** 4:32
4. **Frame for the Blues** 7:01
5. **Some Skunk Funk** 6:12
6. **It Could Happen to You** 6:02\*
7. **The Nearness of You** 6:58
8. **Song of Those Who Seek** 5:31\*
9. **'Round Midnight** 3:57
10. **Groove Blues** 5:19
11. **Alfitude** 4:36
12. **Blues After Dark** 6:18
13. **Spartan Strong** 4:46
14. **Blues in the Closet** 5:24

Trombones: **DANIEL BEAR, AIDAN CLARK, HANNAH DAVIES, MICHAEL DEASE, JUDAH GUERRA, NANAMI HARUTA, ELI HOWELL, DREW KILPELA, ANDREW KIM, PABLO MULLER-SANTIAGO, DAN PARRISH, ALTIN SENCALAR, BRIDGETTE SETTERS, JACK TRATHEN, MILES COLE, CHARLES SCANLON, KEN THOMPSON**  
Bass Trombones: **KYLE QUICK, GINA BENALCÁZAR-LÓPEZ, CHARLES GRACE JR., WYATT FORHAN, CHRIS GLASSMAN**

\*FEATURING: **BENNY BENACK III** - vocals (6) / **SHAREL CASSITY** - alto saxophone (8)

Rhythm Section (except 2,8-10,13):

**XAVIER DAVIS** - piano / **JARED BECKSTEAD-CRAAN** - bass / **KEITH HALL** - drums (8 & 10 only):  
**ETHAN FRANK** - piano (8,10) / **REUBEN STUMP** - bass (8,10)  
**RANDY GELISPIE** - drums (10) / **BRIAN ALLEN** - drums (8)



Retail: \$15.98

Origin 82941

FILE: JAZZ



### MARKETING:

- Home Markets: MICHIGAN
- Publicity & Radio Promotion Campaign
- International Performances
- DownBeat full-page label ad

Produced by Michael Dease  
Recorded, Mixed & Mastered by  
Corey DeRushia at Troubadour  
Studios, Lansing, MI  
Recorded on April 4-5, 2024  
Liner Notes by Gary Fukushima  
Band photo by Lynne Brown  
Cover design & layout by John Bishop

### Label:

ORIGIN RECORDS  
8649 Island Drive South  
Seattle, WA 98118  
ph. 206-781-2589  
info@originarts.com  
www.originarts.com

### U.S Distribution:

CITY HALL RECORDS  
AMPED Distribution  
2505 Kerner Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
ph: 415-457-9080  
www.cityhallrecords.com

### Europe:

NEW ARTS INTERNATIONAL  
Siliciumweg 22  
3812 SX Amersfoort  
The Netherlands  
ph: (+31) 33 7676 110  
www.newartsint.com

### Japan:

GATS PRODUCTION LTD.  
c/o Takashi Kasai  
240-5, Murauchi, Hokuto-shi,  
Hokkaido, 041-1226, JAPAN  
tkasaister@gmail.com  
81-138-83-8603