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## ***Alexa Tarantino “Clarity” - artist notes***

**Clarity** is my second album as a leader and one of several projects that I’ve recorded for Posi-Tone Records. As opposed to my last release, ***Winds of Change***, which combined older and newer compositions, **Clarity** presents original compositions written within the past year. This year brought a wide range of musical experiences. **Clarity** is about recognizing what is most meaningful to me, following my creative instinct, and continuing on my trajectory with a renewed sense of musical identity.

**Through** - Over the past couple of years I have come to play flute just as much as saxophone, which is my primary instrument. I love incorporating flute into my quartet and look forward to using it more in future projects. This is a modal composition to showcase the flute in an edgier, more abstract setting.

**A Race Against Yourself** - I am a bit of a perfectionist, and can often brainstorm ideas and make work for myself that later on seem nearly impossible to accomplish. “A Race Against Yourself” is how I feel in that moment, where I’m stretched too thin or working with a *lack* of clarity.

**La Puerta** - This has become one of my favorite songs to play. I first encountered this song when I was performing with Arturo O’Farrill’s Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra at Birdland Jazz Club. The legendary Bobby Porcelli was the lead alto player at the time and I was lucky enough to sit next to him each week while he played this piece. This is my “thank you” to Bobby for his beautiful sound and generous spirit.

**A Unified Front** - The first four bars of this piece were collectively created from a group of friends, each by contributing one note at a time. That opening riff became a short theme song for us, so I promised the group I would finish it for us to play.

**Gregory is Here** - This is my absolutely favorite Horace Silver composition. The original recording on *In Pursuit of the 27th Man* feels and sounds so great. I enjoy playing this on soprano and arranged it with a little bit of a groove on it.

**Karma** - I commissioned pianist and composer Steven Feifke to contribute a composition to this record. This is another one with a great groove. We loved putting it together and hope you enjoy it!

**Breaking Cycles** - This is a commission by saxophonist and composer Levi Saelua. Levi and I were classmates at the Eastman School and he is one of my go-to composers/arrangers. I was so glad he could contribute this piece. I particularly love the harmony of this piece.

**Thank You For Your Silence** - A new original composition, this title reminds me to stick to my gut and remember that I don’t have to please or agree with every exterior opinion. I love how Joe and Rudy play on this. Enjoy!

**My Ship** - My favorite version of this song is by Miles Davis on *Miles Ahead*. In my opinion, the melody and lyrics felt like a perfect fit for alto flute. I could play melodies to ballads all day - especially on alto flute. It was a treat to arrange this for alto flute and rhythm section.