

ALMA MATTERS

Biography

almamatters.com

Alma Matters is a different kind of musical group—with members spread across both coasts, yet joined by shared Bay Area history and musical roots.

Multi-instrumentalist/vocalist/producer **Jeff Weinmann** formed Alma Matters in 2012 with Berkeley childhood buddies composer/arranger/multi-instrumentalist **Peter Apfelbaum** (Don Cherry, Dafnis Prieto, Harry Belafonte) and trombonist/audio engineer **Jeff Cressman** (Santana, Pete Escovedo). The original collaboration also includes Jeff Cressman's daughter, trombonist/vocalist/songwriter **Natalie Cressman**, and partner, vocalist **Sandy's Cressman**, both who have contributed stand-out tracks to the eponymous debut album (released in 2017). This collection includes fellow Berkeley High School alums master percussionist **Josh Jones**, guitarist **Will Bernard**, trumpet players **Steven Bernstein** and **Erik Jekabson**.

The shared history of the members of Alma Matters go back decades and make for a potent brew of musical styles that include Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms, layered with soulful vocals and powerful horns. The strong bay area tradition of multi-cultural expression and social activism are reflected in the lyrics, especially on the recently released singles "Mama Knows" (a funky Natalie Cressman tune) and "Absolute" which features new addition to the group rapper Chris Burger.

Highlights include appearances by long time Santana vocalist **Tony Lindsay** on the horn driven reggae workout "Get Involved" and Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Founder and Director **Terrance Kelly** on a New Orleans style brass and percussion arrangement of "Wade In The Water". Many of the compositions and arrangements were conceived by Apfelbaum.

Outstanding performances at Berkeley's UC Theatre, Oakland's Uptown, and Yoshi's nightclub have made it clear that Alma Matters!!

For booking inquires contact:

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