

BRASS QUEENS

HOT TUB SESSIONS VOL. I

LINER NOTES

One night on tour in 2023, the band spent a rare night off relaxing together in a hotel hot tub. The conversation covered everything from favorite performances, to the challenges of being an all-female band in a male-dominated genre, and the joys of collaboration. This moment of camaraderie was the catalyst for members of the band to write their own original music and develop the collection of songs that make up Brass Queens' 2024 album *Hot Tub Sessions Vol. I*.

With the New Orleans Brass Band tradition at its core, the songs are spiced with a wide range of musical influences including balkan, mambo, film scores, pop, and classic rock. Expanding on the signature sound that already defined Brass Queens, this album showcases their versatility by delivering intricate horn lines, driving grooves, and their ability to construct a wall of sound. *Vol. I* tells their story so far, through triumphant anthems, joyous odes to friendship, and danceable tunes representative of their high energy performance style.

^ In addition to the musical concept that brings this album together, the visual concept is inspired by symbolism found in the tradition of tarot. With this album they offer up their past, present, and future, with each track corresponding to an individual card. In tarot, there are two interpretations for every card depending on the orientation, so whether you're listening on vinyl, CD, or streaming, think of this album with two sides.

All songs were written and performed by members of Brass Queens. To produce this record, the band worked with an all-star cast of GRAMMY-studded recording professionals including Joseph Pomarico of Atlantic Records, Ian Kagey, & Oscar Zambrano. Recorded at Atlantic Records (Paramount Plaza, NY, NY). Illustrations and design by Ally Chapel.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Release Date: October 18, 2024

Produced By: Brass Queens

Label: Harmony Park Pro

Recorded on March 17, 2024
and June 30, 2024

Recorded at Atlantic Records
(Paramount Plaza, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019)

Engineered by Joseph Pomarico with Ross Owen

Edited by David Joseph

Mixed by Ian Kagey

Mastered by Oscar Zambrano

Album illustrations and design by
Ally Chapel

MUSICIANS

ALEX HARRIS trumpet ELIZABETH ARCE trombone
STEPHANIE KING trumpet STEPHANIE YOUNG trombone
MINERVA JOHNSON trumpet/percussion NORA NALEPKA sousaphone
ALLY CHAPEL alto sax ASHLEY BAIER drum kit
JENNA MURDOCH tenor sax CAITLIN CAWLEY percussion
HEATHER EWER sousaphone (Karma Queen)

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SIDE A



1. LOOK AT ME NOW

Written by Ally Chapel with Alex Harris, Stephanie King, Nora Nalepka, Stephanie Young, Ashley Baier, Caitlin Cawley

Soloist: Jenna Murdoch (tenor sax)

A revenge anthem for those that have doubted us. Balkan influences are borrowed to provide a sense of haunting in the intro. The song continues to oscillate between a pointed melody with a defensive tone followed by a joyous hymn resembling brightness on the other side. The song returns and ends with the ghostly theme, representing a grudge that will not soon be forgotten.

^The Magician: Creativity, resourcefulness, and manifesting desires. This card is often depicted with the infinity symbol, "what goes around, comes around."

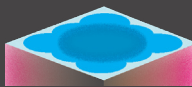


2. MAKE BELIEVE

Written by Nora Nalepka with Steven Duffy, Minerva Johnson, Josh Holcomb
Soloist: Minerva Johnson (trumpet)

Inspired by the music of the Mummers Parade, which takes place annually on New Year's Day in Philadelphia, *Make Believe* is about feeling unbridled joy with your loved ones.

^The Tower: Sudden change, a journey, courage. Depicted here as a castle, which represents security, protection, and sanctuary.



3. HOT TUB HOTEL II

Written by Stephanie Young

Soloists: Ally Chapel (alto sax), Minerva Johnson (trumpet), Stephanie Young (trombone)

If you're wondering what happened to the first hot tub hotel, it was a beloved bed and breakfast called Lions Inn, a place of peaceful respite in the heart of Marigny in New Orleans. *Hot Tub Hotel II* honors that special place with a classic NOLA groove just like what you would hear up and down Frenchman Street. The band frequently reminisces about this favorite spot of theirs—one of the many memories shared between the band members during the fateful night the album is based on.

^The Star: Memory, renewal, and inspiration. The Star is most often depicted with water, because all water in the universe is formed by stars, and all life needs water.



4. NIGHT WINE

Written by Jenna Murdoch with Ashley Baier, Nora Nalepka
Soloists: Alex Harris (trumpet), Stephanie Young (trombone)

A song that keeps you vibing as the night wears on and eases in your next burst of energy. An ode to the late night wind-down. A multi-purpose groove for a laid-back mood..

^Ace of Cups: Love, emotional expression, and refreshing opportunities. A shared cup represents the sharing of gifts and a flow of creativity.

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SIDE B



5. MOON SHINE

Written by Stephanie Young with Minerva Johnson, Ashley Baier, Caitlin Cawley

Soloists: Ally Chapel (alto sax), Jenna Murdoch (tenor sax)

One minute you're wearing a suit jacket, locked in and groovin' on stage. The next minute you're in a swim suit sippin' moonshine under the moon shine.

^The Moon: Female energy, reflection, and mystery. The moon reveals who we are in the shadows, illuminating our subconscious.



6. SLEEPOVER ENERGY

Written by Stephanie King with Caitlin Cawley, Minerva Johnson, Stephanie Young

Soloists: Stephanie King (trumpet), Nora Nalepka (sousaphone)

Remember that point in a sleepover when everyone pushed past their tiredness and got a second wind of wild, hyper, joyous energy? This is that feeling distilled into a song.

^Seven of Pentacles: Passion, freedom, and perseverance. This card signifies success from hard work, but warns against overexertion.



7. TAKE THE THRONE

Written by Stephanie King with Ashley Baier, Nora Nalepka, Stephanie Young

Soloists: Elizabeth Arce (trombone), Jenna Murdoch (tenor sax)

A powerful yet groovy rock 'n' roll-inspired theme announcing our intention to ascend to brass band royalty. Y'all better watch the Queens now, because we're gonna take the throne.

^Two of Swords: Communication, impasse, and justice. This card poses the question of intent and the desired outcome.



8. KARMA QUEEN

Written by Alex Harris with Liza Joseph, Heather Ewer,

Minerva Johnson, Stephanie King, Stephanie Young

Soloist: Stephanie Young (trombone)

Sorry, not sorry. Enter your confessional with boldness and empowerment. You are your own Karma Queen.

^The High Priestess: Intuition, guidance, and the divine feminine. Represented by a divine goddess, this card is an advocate for the power of the inner voice.