

# OREGON

# BIOGRAPHY

Without a doubt **OREGON** is one of the finest groups ever to paint a musical landscape of such global proportions. For three decades **OREGON** has inspired audiences in renowned concert halls including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Berlin Philharmonic Hall, and Vienna's Mozartsaal; in international jazz clubs and at major festivals on tour throughout every continent.



Young musicians **RALPH TOWNER** and **GLEN MOORE** met **COLLIN WALCOTT** at a recording session in New York City in 1969. When the three joined the Paul Winter Consort for a 50-concert U.S. tour the following year, they quickly formed an alliance with its oboist, **PAUL McCANDLESS**. The early development of **OREGON** took root when the four began investigating new musical possibilities after getting a taste of collective improvisation on tour with the Consort. Winter's group introduced them to the concept of performing with uncommon combinations of instruments in an eclectic variety of musical styles. Incorporating these elements, **OREGON** emerged with a unique synthesis of European classical instrumentation, American jazz harmony, and world music influences from around the globe.

Music of Another Present Era was **OREGON'S** first LP release on Vanguard in 1972, introducing the quartet to its American audience. Through their association with ECM, they developed a European following with tours that brought them recognition in the growing international community. Six years and nine albums

later, **OREGON** moved to Elektra/Asylum Records. Its first release on that label, *Out of the Woods*, reached a decidedly wider audience and was included in the 101 Best Jazz Albums list. They were enjoying immense popularity when in November 1984, Walcott died in an auto accident in the former East Germany, leaving the ECM album *Crossing* as his final document. Over the next five years, percussionist Trilok Gurtu played on three albums with the band. Upon his departure the three original members continued their creative development as a trio. For the 1996 Intuition recording *Northwest Passage*, the group incorporated drummer **MARK WALKER** on the Indie Award winning record. He soon after became their newest member.

In June 1999 the band traveled to Moscow to record the double CD **OREGON IN MOSCOW** for Intuition. This project is the debut recording of the group's orchestral repertoire. Developing since the Winter Consort days, this prodigious body of work had been performed with the St. Paul, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Stavanger, Freiburg, and Stuttgart Opera Orchestras, but never documented. **OREGON IN MOSCOW** features the band members as composers, orchestrators, and soloists in collaboration with the Moscow Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra. With this latest CD garnering four **GRAMMY** nominations, the veteran force that is **OREGON** is poised to inspire a new generation of music fans:

Ralph Towner	Guitar/Piano
Paul McCandless	Woodwinds
Glen Moore	Acoustic Bass
Mark Walker	Drums/Percussion

"The collection comes across as an expanded perspective on the appealing, and melodically intriguing music Oregon has always performed."

—Don Heckman, LA TIMES

"The tracks are beautiful, well-crafted pieces that echo the best of 20th century classical music."

—Todd Jenkins, allaboutjazz.com

