

# BIG HASSLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 16, 2016

**THE WESTERLIES ANNOUNCE SELF-TITLED SOPHOMORE ALBUM**

**SHARE NEW TRACK "[SARO](#)" (ARR. SAM AMIDON/NICO MUHLY)  
PREMIERED VIA [NPR MUSIC](#)**

**TOURING THE WEST COAST THIS MONTH**

**RELEASE SHOW SET FOR OCTOBER 18 AT BROOKLYN'S ROULETTE**

***THE WESTERLIES DUE OCTOBER 7, 2016  
VIA SONGLINES***



Credit: Michael George

**[STREAM // EMBED "SARO" \(ARR. SAM AMIDON/NICO MUHLY\)](#)**

"Folk-like and composerly, lovely and intellectually rigorous..." - *NPR Music*

"Take note of these players. You'll be hearing more from them soon." - *JazzTimes*

New York City-based brass quartet **The Westerlies** are thrilled to announce their self-titled sophomore album, due **October 7, 2016** via **Songlines**. The first music shared from the album comes in the form of "**Saro**" (trad., arr. **Sam Amidon/Nico Muhly**), an old British ballad that was one of the first pieces ever adapted by The Westerlies. The track was premiered via [NPR Music's "Songs We Love"](#) series, where they noted that "The Westerlies' rendition has no vocals, but you still feel the heartache... The tune is played unadorned in soft, breathy tones that imply stillness, like the distant sound of a bugler's 'Taps.'" The track is available to stream or embed [HERE](#). The group has also released an [album trailer](#) to give more insight into their creative process and the personality of each member, which can be found [HERE](#).

Having just performed at the esteemed **Newport Jazz Festival** last month, the group is about to embark on a West Coast tour, which begins on **August 20** at the **Idyllwild Jazz In The Pines Festival** in **Idyllwild, CA**, and will take them up through the state for several performances before wrapping up on **August 27** at **The Royal Room** in their hometown of **Seattle, WA**. The group has also added a number of dates, some of them with renowned trumpeter **Dave Douglas**. Additionally, the group has planned an album release show for *The Westerlies*, slated for **October 18** at **Roulette** in **Brooklyn, NY**. The full list of tour dates can be found below.

### [WATCH THE WESTERLIES ALBUM TRAILER](#)

The Westerlies' four members (**Riley Mulherkar** and **Zubin Hensler** [trumpets], and **Andy Clausen** and **Willem de Koch** [trombones]) were **childhood friends and sometime musical rivals** in their hometown of Seattle -- they regularly competed against each other in regional competitions. Each member independently moved to New York City, which led to the old friends reconnecting and performing together while studying at **Juilliard** and the **Manhattan School of Music**.

The Westerlies bring together jazz, improvisational, classical and folk approaches, navigating the music with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family folk ensemble. This album is the product of four composer/performers who, though they grew up in the same city, each have unique and diverse musical backgrounds. The listener can hear each composer gently tugging the ensemble in the direction of his own taste, and the band follows, expressing their friendship through musical empathy.

The Westerlies' self-titled sophomore album features original music by each member of the ensemble, captured in vivid detail by GRAMMY-winning producer **Jesse Lewis (Roomful of Teeth, Brooklyn Rider, Silk Road Ensemble with Yo- Yo Ma, LA Philharmonic)**. The group discovered Jesse through his discography, but as luck would have it, he attended the same Seattle high school as three of The Westerlies' members. The connection between the five of them was immediate and deep, and the collaborative recording process reflects the democratic nature of The Westerlies and pushes the sonic limits of the brass quartet instrumentation. Their atypical instrumentation speaks to their idiosyncratic charm, and to the dynamic nature of their compositional styles.



Much of the music was composed over the course of two residencies in the summer of 2015, then recorded at **The Farm Studio** (a painting of which is on the album's cover) in West Chester, PA. Following their critically acclaimed debut album *Wish the Children Would Come On Home: The Music of Wayne Horvitz*, this is a boldly personal set of music that is equally virtuosic and vulnerable.

**The Westerlies perform without sheet music**, allowing a direct connection to the audience that is all too rare in the chamber music world. This is no homogenous chamber group, unified in its allegiance to the wishes of a composer. Every piece of music touched by The Westerlies reflects the unique sensibilities and personalities of these four individuals, in all their strengths and quirks.

Recent engagements include The Newport Jazz Festival, Celebrate Brooklyn, New Music Bryant Park, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at University of Maryland, NYU Skirball Center, Cooper Hewitt Museum, The New School, The Juilliard School, Seattle Symphony, The Festival of New Trumpet Music, Juilliard in Aiken Festival, Music in the Mountains (Durango, CO), Vancouver Jazz Festival, Roulette, Constellation Chicago, Seattle Art Museum and Earshot Jazz Festival. Active collaborators, The Westerlies have worked with artists in a variety of disciplines, including Vieux Farke Touré, Dave Douglas, Wayne Horvitz, Bill Frisell, Julia Easterlin, visual artist David Foarde, Cocoon Central Dance Team, Choreographer Garth Johnson, and Juilliard Dance.

**The Westerlies tracklist:**

Disc I:

1. A Nearer Sun (Mulherkar)
2. So So Shy (Hensler)
3. New Berlin, New York (Clausen)
4. **Saro (arr. Sam Amidon/Nico Muhly)**
5. Although Of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself (Clausen)
6. The Beekeeper (de Koch)
7. Where's The Music? ( Duke Ellington)
8. Double Situation (Mulherkar)
9. Lopez (Mulherkar)

Disc II:

1. The Shop (de Koch)
2. The Beach (Hensler)
3. Rue des Rosiers (Clausen)
4. Run On Down (Hensler)
5. Edomala (Clausen)
6. Ruddy Ducker (Clausen)
7. Songs My Mother Taught Me (Charles Ives)
8. All To Ourselves (Clausen)

**The Westerlies tour dates:**

- 8/20 - Idyllwild Jazz In The Pines Festival - Idyllwild, CA  
8/21 - Bootleg Theater (Bar Stage) - Los Angeles, CA  
8/22 - Dizzy's Jazz - San Diego, CA  
8/23 - SOhO Restaurant and Music Club - Santa Barbara, CA  
8/25 - Crib Concerts - Arcata, CA  
8/27 - The Royal Room - Seattle, WA  
9/10 - (le) poisson rouge - New York, NY  
9/16 - Union Hall - Brooklyn, NY  
9/29 - An Die Musik - Baltimore, MD  
9/30 - Sofar Sounds - Washington, D.C.  
10/2 - SixThreeFour - Pittsburgh, PA  
10/3 - Canterbury House - Ann Arbor, MI  
10/4 - Merrimans Playhouse - South Bend, IN  
10/5 - The Hideout - Chicago, IL  
10/7 - Madison Central Library - Madison, WI  
10/10 - Icehouse - Minneapolis, MN  
10/12 - Refectory - Columbus, OH  
10/13 - Bop Stop - Cleveland, OH  
10/18 - Roulette (Album release show) - Brooklyn, NY  
10/23 - SF Jazz (2 shows) - San Francisco, CA \*  
10/24 - UNR - Reno, NV \*  
10/27 - The Shedd - Eugene, OR \*  
10/28 - PDX Jazz - Portland, OR \*  
10/29 - Earshot Jazz Festival - Seattle, WA \*  
\* - w/Dave Douglas

**[The Westerlies' Official Website](#)**

**[The Westerlies on Facebook](#)**

**[The Westerlies on Twitter](#)**

**[The Westerlies on Instagram](#)**

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