

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



# RECORDS

**ALFI Records Celebrates International Label with Diverse Releases  
Featuring Arturo Sandoval, Joe Chindamo/Zoe Black,  
Phil Turcio, César Orozco and the Company's Own Founder, Albare**

**Melbourne, Australia, September 16, 2015** – **ALFI Records**, the new international, multicultural record label founded by virtuoso jazz guitarist **Albert Dadon** (aka **Albare**) celebrates its worldwide launch with five releases by a roster of lauded musicians, including 10-time Grammy winner **Arturo Sandoval**, **Joe Chindamo/Zoë Black**, **Phil Turcio** and **César Orozco** as well as the label founder himself. Committed to filling a void for artists, ALFI is created by and for musicians, giving them a home and hands-on nurturing throughout the recording process.

ALFI (**Art Lab For Innovation**) Records is based in Melbourne with branches in New York, Los Angeles, Nashville and Munich and is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by The Planet Company, and the rest of the world by Naxos of America, Inc.

Founder Albare, a songwriter, producer and musical ambassador, has a history of

developing talent while promoting modern jazz in his adopted home of Australia. Born in Morocco, he grew up in Israel and France before settling in Melbourne when he was 27, some 30 year ago. He calls Australia “a multicultural cornucopia,” that profoundly and positively influences his music. Launching a record label where artists are revered is a logical next step after a stint running the Melbourne Jazz Festival and creating the Bell Awards to honor jazz musicians.

Albare says launching the label is like taking “the plunge in a pool where you know the water is a bit cool. Eventually you jump in headfirst. We’re in the water now.

“The decision was, of course, driven by my passion for the music. ALFI Records is part of the digital age; we offer all formats including high res. We are very old fashioned, however, when it comes to methods of recording and managing projects, we use proper recording studios with real producers.

“Our A&R is very much based on our ability to bring new and not so new talent to be part of the ALFI Records sound. In 2016, we plan to release one new album a month.”

Albare tapped New York’s legendary A&R veteran and three-time Grammy-winning producer **Carl Griffin** as senior vice president of ALFI Records. Over a storied career, Griffin signed or produced artists from Diana Krall to Ramsey Lewis to B.B. King, as well as ALFI’s Arturo Sandoval shortly after he defected from Cuba to America. “Albare started the label because he felt that the companies today don’t really cater to artists. And, being a musician himself, he truly understands the needs of artists to have a home where they feel the company cares for them, and not only looks out for their music, but also cares about them as human beings.”

ALFI Records’ first release (May 2015) was Dadon’s own breezy ***Only Human***, a splendid collaboration with an international set of players from Cuba, Italy and Venezuela: Pablo Bencid on drums, Yunior Terry on acoustic bass and Axel Tosca Laugart and label mate Phil Turcio on piano. Among the tracks, the sunny “Nightly News” stands out as a foot-tapping celebration of life. Happiness and light prevail on all of the tracks on *Only Human*. The writing is deft and cohesive with upbeat tempos and a sense of joy spread throughout. The CD cover is a reminder of Albare and ALFI’s mission to imagine a world of inclusion. It features 24 exuberant

portraits of people of all colors, races, genders and ages – different, colorful, *Only Human* indeed.

ALFI Records' mission is to promote a diverse roster of talent, and the classical ***The New Goldberg Variations***, a reworking of the Bach masterpiece by the Australian dynamic duo of **Joe Chindamo** and **Zoë Black** is no exception. Chindamo, a composer and pianist, sticks to the unaltered Bach piano parts, realising improvisation is uncalled for here. Meanwhile, Black - one of the leading violinists of her generation, asked Chindamo to incorporate her violin into the Variations. The result is played with gusto, rich and powerful, and challenges the status quo. "When you hear this CD," says Albare, "you will have to agree that if Bach was alive, surely he would love it." Chindamo and Black will play the Variations in a September 30, 2015 concert at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in support of the ALFI release, which hit digital stores on August 28 and is available on CD October 2.

Melbourne-based pianist **Phil Turcio** is a musician with eclectic tastes and wide-ranging talent, a composer, producer and bandleader as well as prolific songwriter. His credits include music for the Sydney Olympics to movie soundtracks to hits for TV's *Australian Idols*. With his band Hemisphere, he was nominated for a Grammy for Best New Contemporary Jazz Group in 2008. His album, the seven-track ***Signals***, which he wrote and produced, will be re-released by ALFI Records on September 25. The album was an international production featuring Los Angeles-based Will Kennedy on drums, Ric Fierabacci on bass, Gary Meek on sax, David Weckl on drums, Australian Craig Newman on bass and Simon Patterson on guitar. Weckl also mixed the record. Overall, *Signals* is smooth fusion jazz. The track, "Beyond Control" features Turcio's muscular keyboard playing interspersed with Meek's zippy sax alternating in brilliance. On working with ALFI Records, Phil says: "This will only be the beginning of what I expect to be a long and creative collaboration."

ALFI Records is also proud to release ***No Limits For Tumbao***, (August 28 digitally, October 2 on CD), the fiery, Latin jazz fusion of African, new world, swinging folkloric *changüi* and *joropo* rhythms on ten tracks from Cuban/Venezuelan keyboardist and composer **César Orozco** and his group, **Kamarata Jazz**. Orozco was born in Cuba, lived in Venezuela until 2012 when he moved to the United

States to study music at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. *No Limits for Tumbao* showcases his comfort in a wide range of styles. There is a spicy bit of Bossa Nova, some fiery flamenco and even drama from a tango at work here. Orozco produced and arranged the album with Rodner Padilla, featuring special guests Paquito D'Rivera, Pedrito Martinez, Gary Thomas, Yosvany Terry, Luisito Quintero, Vladimir Quintero, Linda Briceño, Pablo Bencid and Zamira Briceño. "Tumbao," says Orozco, is to Latin music what swing is to jazz. It is the essential quality that makes Latin jazz identifiable, emotional and irresistible." *No Limits* tracks range from Orozco's six original compositions to Cuban and Venezuelan folk songs. "La Rumba Esta Buena (Changüi)" is infused with Latin rhythms that get the hips swinging. The waltz-like rhythm of "Jorozco," with soprano saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera, is an epic joropo, a fine example of the Venezuelan mashup of cultures. Orozco's engaging rendition of the British standard, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" is another highlight.

**Arturo Sandoval** is, without question, one of the best jazz trumpeters alive, but the legendary Cuban jazz master isn't about to stick to one instrument when there are many others to play. On the forthcoming release, *Live at Yoshi's*, the 10-time Grammy and Presidential Medal of Freedom winner presents a master class on jazz styles. Recorded at the San Francisco-Bay area jazz club in July, the seven tracks on *Live* are a mix of tradition and emotion and filled with joy. His trumpet wails in the New Orleans classic "Second Line: Joe Avery's Blues." Fingers fly across the keyboards on "Sureña" and Sandoval happily breezes through "El Manisero" (The Peanut Vendor) with a grin you can almost hear. Bandleader Sandoval effortlessly encourages the other musicians on stage: Rene Toledo (guitar), Dave Siegel (keyboards), Johnny Friday (drums), Kemuel Riog (piano), John Belzaguy (bass), Ricardo Pasillas (percussion) and Carlos Reyes (violinist). Sandoval's vocal chops also soar on "Dear Diz, Every Day I Think of You," a love letter to his hero and mentor Dizzy Gillespie. The energetic, entertaining way Sandoval's band communicates creates a party atmosphere, and it's a party music lovers will be thrilled to attend when the record becomes available digitally on September 25, on CD October 2.

Other artists on ALFI Records' roster include Cuban-born, New York-based all around musician **Axel Tosca Laugart**, his mother, the sultry vocalist, **Xiomara**

**Laugart** and **Darryn Farrugia**, a skilled drummer who has played with a myriad of entertainers from Eartha Kitt to Bonnie Raitt.

In launching ALFI Records, Albare is aiming for the stars. His mission is to be inclusive, a label “of musicians for musicians,” with global impact. He’s also a serious businessman who understands how artists and fans can connect socially, physically and sonically. Albare and ALFI Records look forward to offering quality music for many years to come.

For more information, please visit [www.alfirecords.com](http://www.alfirecords.com)

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