

Artist: **The Names**

Album title: ***Four Names and a Song***

Label: **Editions Verde (EV012)**

Format: **CD+insert/digital**

Release date: **April 1, 2022**



From Matt Marble's essay *Our Greater Potentials* which appears in the liner notes: *Four Names and a Song* is an encoded love letter addressed to a vital intersection – that of the traditions of AACM jazz and Cagean aleatoric composition, on the one hand, and that of racial injustice and white responsibility, on the other. Using his own musical cipher, Dutch composer and bassist Koen Nutters first translated

the names of ensemble members and social justice icons into musical pitches. Each person's unique 'melodic code' then naturally gives rise to their own melodic and harmonic figures. In his arrangements Nutters also found inspiration from 1960s jazz harmony, which he abstracts into musical question marks. Chord progressions are slowed down into atmospheric textures suspended in parenthetical silences. Though the music takes on a disembodied character, it doesn't feel escapist. Almost ceremonial, it is more like the construction and adornment of an altar." Marble goes on to say, "The music of The Names does not provide any solutions to the injustice they meditate upon, nor do they completely fulfill the white responsibility which Angela Davis suggests. But *Four Names and a Song* is a radical ambience in which to reflect on these powerful voices and on what that responsibility might entail."

Conceived of and organized by Koen Nutters, **The Names** is a collaboration between Sara Barbosa de Campos, Seamus Cater, Heather Frasch, Marielle Groven, Morton Joh, Carina Khorkhordina, Jeroen Kimman, Koen Nutters, Han-earl Park, Gert-Jan Prins, Germaine Sijstermans, Aimée Theriot-Ramos, and Quentin Tolimieri.

Purchase CD/digital: <https://www.editions-verde.com/shop/p/the-names-four-names-and-a-song-cd>

Editions Verde on Bandcamp: <https://www.editionsverde.bandcamp.com>

Koen Nutters on Bandcamp: <https://koennutters.bandcamp.com/>

