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 **Nate Birkey releases tenth album, *Rome***

**H**ousehold Ink Records is proud to present Nate Birkey’s luminous fine new album *Rome*, his tenth release on the label. The Colorado-born and long NYC-based jazz trumpeter and vocalist has covered many angles and approaches during his career, reflect on unique albums such as his gospel/hymn-themed *Just a Closer Walk* (2015), 2001’s *Ballads*, and 2008’s *Christmas*. Other titles in the discography: *Indelibly You* (1998), *The Mennonite* (2001), *Shortest Day* (2004) and *Almost Home* (2008).

*Rome* was recorded last year in Rome, Italy, a place where Birkey has been drawn back to on many occasions, and found a natural alliance with the cultural temperament. A mix of originals and custom-chosen classics add up to a glowing, romantic yet thoughtful musical occasion. Joining Birkey are Italian musician friends--Roberto Tarenzi and Manuel Magrini on piano, bassist Luca Bulgarelli and drummer Alessandro Marzi.

The press notes:

Re: *Just a Closer Walk*

“Over the course of his career, which spans nine releases as a leader, trumpeter and vocalist Nate Birkey has consistently cleaved to a less-is-more ethos, whether by virtue of his West Coast cool vibe or specific technical choices that prioritize feeling and lyrical expression. …Birkey, having put aside his usual mix of playing and singing for this all instrumental album, virtually transforms his trumpet into a human voice, complete with ranges of emotion that taper off into a diaphanous whisper at the song’s end. …Albums like this suggest Birkey is on his way out from under the shadow of all those early Chet Baker comparisons; his musical ideas deserve to stand on their own.”

                                                                        —Jennifer O’Dell - *DownBeat*, April 2015

“Birkey’s trumpet chops are strong, his playing is lyrical and passionate… his singing voice is soft and sensitive, making the ballad format the most appropriate for his style. Birkey seems to me to be an enigma. As was once queried of Chet Baker, is he a trumpet player who sings, or a singer who plays trumpet? Birkey is adept at both.”

                                                          --Frank Rubolino, *Cadence*

Re: *Christmas*

"With his muted trumpet and hush-a-bye vocal style, Birkey recalls a healthy Chet Baker. …Without question, this is one of the gems in this year’s batch of holiday releases."  
                                          --Lee Mergner - *Jazz Times*

“Birkey exemplifies in music what the American poet, James Wright, called ‘the pure clear word’—honest, heartfelt expression that never lapses into sentimentality or self-pity.”

*--*Victor Schermer*, All About Jazz*

"Nate Birkey, he of mysterious charisma, subtle gossamer trumpet lines and understated voice, hunches over the microphone and leans into his phrases, shutting out the world."

--Josef Woodard, LA *Times*

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