

EZRA - DEBUT ALBUM

JACOB JOLLIFF, MAX ALLARD,
JESSE JONES AND CRAIG BUTTERFIELD

Fabulous playing! So great to hear the next generation of string wizards dive in and continue the tradition forward.

— Mike Marshall

EZRA is releasing their self-titled debut album on March 1, 2024 with **Adhyâropa Records**. Founded by award-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist **Jesse Jones**, EZRA is a collective of classical, jazz, rock, and bluegrass musicians focused on the creation of genre-crossing and style-inclusive new music. The ensemble consists of world-renowned mandolinist **Jacob Jolliff**, banjo virtuoso **Max Allard**, and bassist extraordinaire **Craig Butterfield**, with Jones on guitar- and keyboard-related instruments.

EZRA's debut album includes nine works by Jones. It was recorded while Jones was taking a one year sabbatical from his composition professorship at Oberlin Conservatory. During this time, Jones built some of the instruments he plays on the album. He invited longtime collaborator Butterfield, together with Jolliff and Allard, for an intense week of rehearsals and recording in Oberlin.

Butterfield and Jones have released three duo albums together since 2015, and Jones has known Jolliff for more than two decades, but they had never found the opportunity to record together. When Allard enrolled as a composition major at Oberlin Conservatory, Jones says, "I jumped on the chance to get these guys together and record nine of the tunes I had lying around. The result was beyond what I could have imagined and was heaps of fun to rehearse and record."

Recorded and engineered by **Paul Eachus** at First Church in downtown Oberlin and mastered by **Dave Sinko** (Punch Brothers, Béla Fleck, Edgar Meyer), this album felt like capturing lightning in a bottle for these first time collaborators.

EZRA's focus is centered around collaboration. The group has performed and recorded with musical polymath and instrument inventor **Mark Stewart**, composer **Elizabeth Ogoneck**, pianist/Moog-master **Xak Bjerken**, and has been in residence at several universities. EZRA's second and third albums, which feature these additional musicians, are already in the works for 2025.

For fans of: Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile, Yo-Yo Ma, Mike Marshall, Béla Fleck, Punch Brothers, Westbound Situation, Hawktail

Genre: Bluegrass, Americana, New Acoustic, Chamber

Singles: "[Banjeleena](#)" (February 13, 2024), "[The Jolly Jolliff](#)" (February 19, 2024), "[Contrabuffoon](#)" (February 26, 2024)

Bandcamp Artist Page: ezraquartet.bandcamp.com

Soundcloud: [private listening link](#)

Instagram: [@ezraquartet](#)

Website: ezraquartet.com



TRACK LISTING

1. Smoke in the Valley (5:13)
2. Jarrah (3:55)
3. Garden Gate (2:47)
4. Contrabuffoon (5:04)
5. Banjaleena (4:45)
6. Cowboy Walks (4:57)
7. The Jolly Jolliff (4:23)
8. Beedabumbum (4:25)
9. Dix-Neuf (3:50)

All tracks written by Jesse Jones

Jacob Jolliff: mandolin

Max Allard: banjo

Jesse Jones: guitar and piano

Craig Butterfield: double bass

Produced by **EZRA**

Engineered and Mixed by **Paul Eachus**

Mastered by **Dave Sinko**

Album Art by **Bailey Jones**

Released by **Adhyâropa Records**

Release Date: **March 1, 2024**

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