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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: “re: manhattan project,”
commemorating 75th anniversary of atomic attacks, to be released
August 6, 2020**

“As I listen to the final mix of this recording, I am reminded that when art is personal - really personal - it contains a passion and spirit that is difficult to put into words. When it is so personal as this, the passion and energy are palpable. I am also reminded that once in a while, a project and a composer come along that completely grab and hold your attention. This recording is certainly one of those... This is an extraordinary first release by someone I am sure you will be hearing a lot more from.” – Dave Rivello

Composer and guitarist **Denin Koch** reimagines the complex and fascinating story of the Manhattan Project on “re: manhattan project,” his debut album. The album features ten tracks each inspired by either an element of the Manhattan Project story, like “b reactor,” “j. robert oppenheimer” and “the einstein-szilard letter,” or Koch’s own experience growing up in Richland, like “the fields, the river, the sky,” “violent peace” and “rest assured.” The album is to be released on August 6th, 2020, exactly 75 years after Hiroshima was devastated by an atomic attack and the world was forever changed by the presence of nuclear weapons. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, an originally-planned release concert at the Hanford REACH Museum has been cancelled and the release will instead be marked by a virtual concert live from the Emerald of Siam on August 9th at 6 PM.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, award-winning guitarist Denin Koch is a recognized performer, composer, author and educator whose musical conception synthesizes jazz, classical and rock music traditions into one powerful and unique sound. He has performed with Arturo Sandoval, Pat Metheny, Wycliffe Gordon, Branford Marsalis, Dee Daniels, Ellis Marsalis, Lynn Ligamari, Ryan Keberle and the Spokane Symphony and has held memberships in the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, Spokane Jazz Orchestra and the Bob Curnow Big Band. He has won numerous awards for his playing, is a Mel Bay Author, has taught at the Eastman School of Music and Eastman Community Music School and holds degrees from the Eastman School of

Music and Whitworth University. His teachers and mentors include Kurt Rosenwinkel, Peter Bernstein, Gary Versace, Bob Sneider and Brent Edstrom.

Of “re: manhattan project,” Koch says: “During the summer of 2016, I took a tour of the B Reactor, the world's first large-scale production reactor, which sits just a few miles from where I grew up. When you step into that reactor for the first time and turn the corner to face the reactor core, it's a little bit like the feeling you get on a roller coaster when it first starts to tip beyond the crest of the first hill, except it doesn't go away for a while. That's about the best way I can describe it - there's no way to describe in words the feeling of standing before a device that, in my mind, has bent time, space and the history of humanity around itself. Immediately after returning home from that tour, I penned ‘B Reactor,’ which, three years later, became the core of this project, ‘re: manhattan project.’

He continues “My hope is that those who hear this music will be inspired to consider the implications of anyone having nuclear weapons at any time or anywhere. Peace is not an idyllic state that falls like rain but a conscious choice that every person must make in every second of every day. Nuclear weapons represent the fear of losing power and the need to wield an apocalyptic threat against our fellow men. In the world that we all wish we lived in, we won't be needing them anymore.”

“re: manhattan project” features musicians from throughout Koch’s time at Whitworth University and the Eastman School of Music. All are respected young musicians in their own right that come together for a powerful performance on the album. Providing the foil to Koch’s guitar pyrotechnics is trombonist **Jonathan Bumpus**, and the groove is held down by the forceful rhythm section of **Seiji Yamashita** on piano, **Robert MacPartland** on bass, and **Stephen Morris** on drums. Violist **James Marshall** adds the shimmer of strings to the final track. Despite having offers from record labels, Koch opted to self-release in order to retain control of the highly personal project. The project was funded by a grant from the Institute for Music Leadership at the Eastman School of Music and by backers on Kickstarter, where it was named a “Project We Love” by the Kickstarter staff and raised nearly 200% of its goal.

To learn more about “re: manhattan project,” visit www.deninkochmusic.com/re-manhattan-project. There, you can stream the first two singles and access exclusive content including interviews with native Richlanders (including Dara Quinn, owner of the Emerald of Siam, former Washington State Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken and local composer Reg Unterseher), members of Koch’s band, and interviews with Koch himself. More resources for press are available there as well.