

A young boy with short, wavy hair is shown from the back, looking out at the ocean. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The boy's hair is the central focus, with the ocean and sky visible in the background. The text 'what's ahead?' is overlaid on the boy's hair, and 'tom alexander' is in a box below it. A black bar at the bottom contains the text '20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION' in gold.

# what's ahead?

tom alexander

20th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

I look back on this album through a kaleidoscope of sorts. After all, it's been two decades since its original release. My first solo piano album didn't start out that way. Initially, the music was written for multiple musicians. I didn't have a working band at the time, and recruiting the right musicians to play the music, finding rehearsal space, and coordinating schedules seemed like a tall order. And of course, there are always budget constraints. I chose to rearrange the music for solo piano — mostly — as there are a few overdubbed piano parts.

Though I had played on some other studio recordings, prior to this release, I really see "What's Ahead?" as my first full album. What I didn't expect was the attention it received not long after its release. My dear friend, Andrew Morrell, shared this music with Liane Hansen, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday. On June 17, 2001, I appeared with Liane on the show, reaching a very large national audience. Afterwards, I received correspondence from people all over the country and beyond. Suddenly, opportunities I never would have imagined, presented themselves to me.

I should mention as an aside, I've been asked if that's my son on the cover. It is indeed. He was two years old at the time, and the photo, which was taken by his godfather, John Zissimos, captured something special — his gaze to the ocean's horizon — spoke of the future.

With each new musical project, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for a unique musical experience. But "What's Ahead?" will always hold a very special place in my heart. I offer my sincerest thanks to George Graham, Liane Hansen, Dave Heuer, Virginia Holden, Audric Jankauskas, Andrew Morrell, Jamie Roth, John Zissimos and especially my wife, Gwyn and son, Peter.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "George Graham", is written across the bottom of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.





## tom alexander ● what's ahead

Piano, Muted & Prepared Piano (\*), Voice (^)

1. Ballparks 2:18
2. Petey Pie (Dedicated to my son Peter) 2:20
3. Looking Forward to Looking Back 3:08
4. Quiet Smiles (Dedicated to my wife Gwyn) 1:32
5. Flamenco de Florida\* 1:33
6. Poem #1 1:12
7. City Suite for Multiple Pianos \*^ 12:22
  - a. Discovery
  - b. Construction
  - c. Her People
  - d. Turbulence
  - e. Decay
  - f. Renaissance
8. Poem #2 1:24
9. Flickering Images on a Summer Night 3:55
10. Prelude to Pathways :37
11. Pathways 2:30
12. Chicklets (Dedicated to Chick Corea) 5:05
13. Poem #3 1:16
14. Breathing 4:06

Producers: Jamie Roth & Tom Alexander  
Associate Producer: Audric Jankauskas

Recorded at New River Studios, Fort Lauderdale, FL,  
Recording dates: December 4, 1999 & January 22, 2000  
Tom plays a Yamaha C7D Grand Piano  
Engineer: Jamie Roth  
Assistant Engineer: Dave Heuer  
Mixing & Mastering: Audric Jankauskas,  
Aujan Music Productions, Newtown, PA

All compositions: Tom Alexander,  
except "Chicklets", by Tom Alexander & Jim Venuto.  
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Photography: John Zissimos.  
Sleeve Design: Andrew Morrell,  
John Zissimos, Tom Alexander.

Original Release Date: January 22, 2001.



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