



CATALOG #: **FKX028**

ARTIST: **Fort Knox Five**

RELEASE:

The New Gold Standard 2

LABEL: **Fort Knox Recordings**

RELEASE DATE: **November 16, 2009**

TRACKLISTING:

01. Fort Knox Five
What Make Ya Dance
feat. Rootz
02. Nappy Riddem – **Rastar**
03. Fort Knox Five – **Shift**
feat. Afrika Bambaataa & Mustafa Akbar
04. Fort Knox Five – **The Sax Pusher**
feat. Frank Mitchell
05. Empresarios – **Sabor Tropical**
feat. Francisco Rosado & Felix Perez
06. Fort Knox Five – **Bhangra Paanch**
feat. Beta G
07. See-I – **How Could You**
(Rodney Hunter Remix)
08. International Velvet – **Sitargazer**
09. See-I – **Homegrown**
10. International Velvet – **Sundown**
feat. Mustafa Akbar
11. Speedy Consuela – **On Our Way**
12. Empresarios – **Cumbia**
13. Speedy Consuela
Number One Fan
14. Lifftoff – **Marshmeadows**
15. Nappy Riddem
One World Sovereignty
feat. Asheru

The New Gold Standard 2 is the modern global sequel to Fort Knox Recordings' 2006 hit compilation, *The New Gold Standard*. Selected and compiled by the Fort Knox Five, this new release features freshly-minted sounds from the Fort Knox Five, International Velvet, Speedy Consuela, Lifftoff, See-I, Empresarios, and Nappy Riddem.

The Fort Knox Five released their debut solo album, *Radio Free DC*, in 2008. *Radio Free DC* gained heavy praise from both *The Guardian* and *Metro* publications in the UK and was called "One of this year's most exciting, most eclectic funk albums" by *USA Today*. The album was followed by a series of smash hit remixes, culminating in the release of *Radio Free DC Remixed* in July 2009.

All of the artists from the original label compilation return on *The New Gold Standard 2*. The Fort Knox Five, deliver four new tunes, each with its own distinctive flair and twist. Longtime vocal collaborator, Rootz of See-I, gets things started with some funky, dance floor business on the opening track, "What Make Ya Dance." Over Inauguration weekend – while Barack Obama was being sworn in – the Fort Knox Five teamed up with electro-funk innovator Afrika Bambaataa and Mustafa Akbar to create the funk anthem "Shift." Saxophonist Frank Mitchell (See-I, Thievery Corporation) takes center stage for, "The Sax Pusher," a quintessential Fort Knox Five instrumental banger. And, on the sitar & bass monster, "Bhangra Paanch," the Fort Knox Five and Beta G make a foray into Indian territory armed with a heavy dose of dub breaks.

International Velvet, the brainchild of Fort Knox Five member Rob Myers, brings out the psychedelic funk on the anthemic "Sitargazer" and drops some sitar flavoring into a deep reworking of the Gordon Lightfoot classic "Sundown." (Myers is the man responsible for the sitar on such hits as Thievery Corporation's "Lebanese Blonde," Fort Knox Five's "Funk 4 Peace," and the Thunderball classic "Stereotonic.") Speedy Consuela, the family affair of Steve & Johnna Raskin alongside Steve's sister and brother in-law Joyce & Matt White returns with their distinctive, indie-pop sound. "On Our Way" is the perfect song to bring the sun out on a rainy day, and "Number One Fan"

is a spunky genre-bender that crosses the lines of trip-hop, and Mod. Rounding out the old-school Fort Knox Recordings roster, Lifftoff launches their unique brand of psychedelic electronica on "Marshmeadows," an atmospheric tribute to the power of flowers.

The New Gold Standard 2 also showcases the new roster additions to Fort Knox Recordings. Hometown roots reggae rockers and longtime Fort Knox and Thievery Corporation collaborators, See-I, lay down some seriously hard-rocking reggae vibes on "Homegrown," the studio-version of the See-I live-standard that immortalizes their hometown. And the soulful, "How Could You," gets remixed by Rodney Hunter into a wicked up-tempo skank. Empresarios, a group co-formed by Fort Knox Five and See-I collaborator Javier Miranda, makes their debut with two sizzlers. "Sabor Tropical," featuring the vocal stylings of Francisco Rosado and Felix Perez, crosses the boundaries of Latin funk and reggaeton while "Cumbia" drives further south with a red-hot Latin trip-hop groove. Nappy Riddem, the new super group featuring Fort Knox Recordings stalwarts Rex Riddem and Mustafa Akbar, along side Thievery Corporation live-band bassist, Ashish "Hash" Vyas, show the breadth of their new sound. "Rastar" incorporates Prince-like vocals, melded with skank reggae guitars, and an infectious dancefloor hook. "One World Sovereignty" closes out the album with a conscious ballad featuring Asheru (Unspoken Heard, "The Boondocks Theme"), providing the perfect ending to an epic compilation.

In the three years since Fort Knox Recordings released *The New Gold Standard*, the label and the funky foursome have been busy releasing original material and remixes at a swift pace. *The New Gold Standard 2* brings the world up to date with 15 new songs that epitomize the modern global sounds of their hometown, Washington, DC. With sounds ranging from rock to reggae, hip-hop to reggaeton, and some serious funk & soul thrown in, *The New Gold Standard 2* raises the bar once again, showcasing all the talented artists on DC's premier funk and breaks label.