

acoustic3

Boise-based trio acoustic3 has recently released their debut recording, "Forever." acoustic3 is one of several Idaho jazz groups performing and recording jazz music for a regional, national and international audience.

The album draws deeply from the original material from the group's bassist, Tom Jensen as well as arrangements of other well known jazz and pop tunes.

Singer, song writer and saxophonist Curtis Stigers says:

"...The arrangements are clever and soulful, the musicianship is great, as I expected, but the big surprise is the songwriting: these are some very sophisticated, melodic tunes. I did not expect such quality songwriting, such lovely songs."

The tunes on "Forever" range from the infectious, New Orleans march of "Late in the Evening" to the tragic ballad, "The Last Time" to the quirky, but catchy, "Paranoia". Tom's original tunes have helped bring focus and purpose to the group's sound. Tom says about the process of writing for the group:

"...Whenever I sit down to write a tune it is always for a specific voice. I never write unless I have a group or person in mind that will perform the piece."

"Forever" also explores a range of other musical interpretations ranging from "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Autumn Leaves: to arrangements from pop artists such as Norah Jones and U2. Truly "Forever" draws from a range of new and familiar musical styles, influences and emotions.

For more information about the acoustic3 performances and 'Forever," please contact:

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BIO

Idaho-based trio acoustic3 is a piano jazz trio whose sound draws from Gene Harris to Horace Silver to the Ray Brown and Bill Evans trios.

Justin Nielsen, acoustic3's piano player comes from a musical family but didn't play jazz until he was nearly finished with college. The sounds and rhythms of jazz grabbed hold of Justin and he has never let go. Justin brings the technical abilities to the trio that give him unfettered access to expression of his musical ideas and emotional solos that audiences listen for and love.

Janie Harris, wife of the late Gene Harris had this to say about Justin:

"...Gene Harris played because he loved it. He gave everything he had to give when he performed. It was never a job to him. Justin has that same rare quality. He gives all he has to give when he plays. It's not just a job to him, it's a passion. He can play like Gene if he wants to, but he has his own unique style which is the essence of jazz. Justin is a gentleman, a true professional and is committed to raising the standard of Jazz..."

As the bassist for acoustic3, Tom Jensen brings a foundation that was built while playing as a sideman in clubs and festivals in the NYC area such as Birdland and the JVC Jazz festival. Helping to refine his sound came out of studying with such bassists as John Clayton and Rodney Whitaker.

"...Back before amplifiers the bassists had to figure out how to get a huge sound to backup a big band." says Tom. "You hear that in Ray Brown and John Clayton and Dave Holland. I've tried to be respectful of that history when I approach the instrument because part of what makes a song swing so hard is that constant striving for a big sound. There's a difference between just being loud and having a big sound."

Damien Bard, the drummer, and Tom Jensen have known each other since elementary school days. They grew up in the same Boise neighborhood and have played together various musical settings over the years. Damien recalls that:

"...I have played with many great musicians over the years and learned a lot from different bass players. Playing with Tom is a very familiar experience for me, but we don't allow each other to get too comfortable. We share a mutual trust that allows us to take musical risks but also feel comfortable providing a rock solid foundation for the band."

Their comfort comes from knowing each other and growing up under similar musical influences. In the 1980's they regularly went to Ste. Chapelle Winery to listen to the Ray Brown Trio. Tom recalls that experience:

"...I didn't realize what I was hearing at the time, but looking back I see those experiences as an anchor for both Damien and I in how we approach the trio setting. They had a sound like a big band and we try to get at those same elements in our trio."

Members of acoustic3 have collaborated with a wide variety of artists including: Benny Green, Mel Brown, Dick Berg, Tad Weed, Christian McBride, John Clayton, Jay Leonhart, Russell Malone, Tom Harrell, James Williams, Kevin Mahogany, John Stowell, Mike Vax, Carl Fontana, "Slide" Hampton, Manny Albam and David Berger. Locally, members of the group have worked with Brent Jensen, Jeff Baker, Chuck Smith, Sandon Mayhew, Rob Walker and Ned Evett.

Members of the band have played at well-known festival and venues including: The JVC Jazz Festival - New York City, The Berkeley Jazz Festival, Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, Deutsche-American Festival, the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, the Gene Harris Jazz Festival, Jazz in the Canyon, the Sun Valley Jazz Festival, the International Fretless, Guitar Festival, Birdland NYC and The Knitting Factory NYC.