



NEW YORK STANDARDS QUARTET

Tim Armacost
David Berkman
Gene Jackson
Daiki Yasukagawa



The exciting New York Standards Quartet, a group devoted to the radical reinvention of famous pop songs and Broadway show tunes. A collective class act, and delightful surprise. Playing jazz standards in their own way.

John Fordham

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BIOGRAPHY

When we formed the New York Standards Quartet (NYSQ) eight years ago, the concept was a straightforward one: *PLAY JAZZ STANDARDS IN OUR OWN WAY*. After playing a lot of original music (*we all compose and lead bands that do that*) we thought it would be fun and liberating to play music based on simpler, standard jazz tunes that we had grown up playing. By playing jazz standard tunes like “Confirmation” and “All the Things You Are,” we put the focus on the playing of the tune—what we do with it, not so much the tune itself. These tunes are blank slates to write on, with a lot of freedom and room for interpretation. We’ve expanded our approach to include arrangements and reinventions of these tunes, as well as original compositions that have a close connection to forms and harmonies derived from standards.

The band has been touring and developing together for eight years, and it shows in the music. Audience response has been phenomenal, and bookings are pouring in from festivals and venues around the world.

The New York Standards Quartet is Tim Armacost (*Billy Hart, Ray Drummond, Kenny Barron*) on saxes and flute, David Berkman (*Tom Harrell, Cecil McBee, Vanguard Orchestra*) on piano, Gene Jackson (*Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Dave Holland*) on drums, and Daiki Yasukagawa (*one of Japan’s top bassists*) on bass. This collaborative group has done extensive tours of Japan eight times, European tours twice, and multiple gigs in New York and around the United States. The group has released three CDs on Challenge Records (Netherlands) and D-Musica (Japan) with another due out next year.

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— UPCOMING PERFORMANCES —

2014

March 7th - 8th Smalls Jazz Club NYC

March 9th - 15th Northeastern United States Tour

July 18th - August 8th Japan Tour

November 1st - 15th US Tour (Texas, Arkansas, Kansas)

2015

February 15th - 16th US Tour (California)

February 27th - 28th Smoke Jazz Club NYC California Tour

July 18th - August 8th Japan Tour

November 1st - 15th US Tour (Texas, Arkansas, Kansas)

PAST PERFORMANCES

Eight tours in Japan with concerts, club appearances, and live radio recordings for NHK. Seven tours in the United States, including Jazz festivals, clubs, concert halls and workshops at Universities including: Indiana University, Bloomington, College of Charleston School of Music, University of Illinois, Urbana, Northern Illinois University, Columbus State University, DeKalb, Winona State University, Georgia State University, and High School for Performing Arts, Houston.

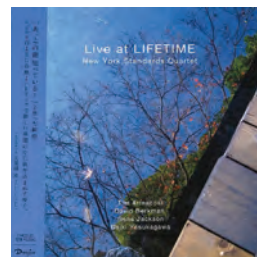
RECORDINGS



Live In Tokyo
2008



UnStandard
2011



Live at Lifetime
2013



The melodies are quite fine, the solos are strong, the interplay is exciting and intelligent...creative music that rings true.

Richard Kamins

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PRESS

"Introducing the exciting New York Standards Quartet, a group devoted to the radical reinvention of famous pop songs and Broadway show tunes. Plenty of contemporary jazz artists do that, but few more divertingly than this vivacious foursome, who delightedly cherish the originals while brusquely deconstructing their harmonies and tweaking their melodies. This is a collective class act, and a delightful surprise."

JOHN FORDHAM, THE GUARDIAN, APRIL 15, 2012

"On 'UnStandard', the New York Standards Quartet... is a wonderful group playing a straight ahead songbook that the general music fan can easily gravitate to with no fear...the listener gets an education by a senior class of jazz players. The jazz community gets another stellar record to talk about for the rest of the year. Highly recommended."

STEPHAN MOORE, JAZZ WRAP

"What's not to like about 'UnStandard'? The melodies are quite fine, the solos are strong, the interplay is exciting and intelligent, Gene Jackson's work is stellar... The New York Standards Quartet makes creative music that rings true."

RICHARD KAMINS, THE HARTFORD COURANT ONLINE

"...Climactic moment built on climactic moment. Percussive, two handed rhythmic episodes from David Berkman on piano were interspersed with fizzing runs that seemed to be exploring all the possibilities of the re-worked harmony...this is how jazz sounds now...(there was) an electric connection between David Berkman and Gene Jackson on drums. Berkman simply boiled with energy...and Gene Jackson was a phenomenon..."

MIKE COLLINS, JAZZY BLOGMAN, APRIL 11, 2011
NEW YORK STANDARDS QUARTET AT COLSTON HALL 2

"...We were swept up by the breathtaking virtuosity of these musicians...'I Love You' moved...into David Berkman's beautiful piano solo, cushioned on effortless swing. Tim Armacost's sweet soprano brought to mind Ornette. Later, Armacost's warm tenor tone reminded me of Joe Henderson with something of Sonny Rollins in the rhythm...(we heard) exciting polyrhythms from Gene Jackson's drumming, erupting into driving drum rolls—we were in the presence of a master."

LONDON JAZZ REVIEW
ON NEW YORK STANDARDS QUARTET AT
OXFORD JAZZ FESTIVAL



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GENE JACKSON

Gene Jackson is one of the most well-known and best-loved drummers of his generation. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, he began touring with Kevin Eubanks in his 20s, while still living in Boston. After moving to New York in 1987, Jackson's career blossomed. He worked with Herbie Hancock from 1991 to 2000 in a variety of bands that, at various times, included Dave Holland, Wayne Shorer and Craig Handy as members. Around this time, Jackson was also the drummer with Dave Holland's Band until Herbie Hancock's touring schedule made it impossible for him to work with both groups. Since then, Jackson has worked with most major living jazz performers, among them: Branford Marsalis, Gary Thomas, Robin Eubanks, The Mingus Big Band, Charles Tolliver, Christian McBride, Michelle Rosewoman, Clark Terry, Elvis Costello, Alex Sipiagin, Dave Kikoski, Seamus Blake and countless others. A committed teacher, Gene Jackson has worked at scores of schools, residencies, and jazz camps over the years, around the United States and internationally.



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TIM ARMACOST

After a life of travel and discovery on three continents, Tim Armacost has established himself as one of the most popular saxists on the New York scene today. Armacost was born in Los Angeles, but came of age as a musician in Tokyo, New Delhi, and Amsterdam, where he burnished his reputation as an upcoming talent, with a big tenor sound and an impeccable rhythmic sense. He has, and continues to tour regularly around the world both as a sideman and a leader. He has worked with a phenomenal number of jazz greats, including Al Foster, Jimmy Cobb, Kenny Barron, Tom Harrell, Billy Hart, Victor Lewis, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Peter Erksine, Ray Drummond, Roy Hargrove, Don Friedman and Randy Brecker. Armacost has recorded eight critically acclaimed records as a leader and has composed for Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. He is a widely respected teacher and teaches regularly at the Jamey Aebersold and Stanford Summer Jazz Workshops, at Queens College in New York City and as a clinician at universities throughout the U.S., Japan, and Europe.



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DAVID BERKMAN

David Berkman is a singular voice among the top pianists in the New York jazz scene, whose playing embraces and reflects his substantial knowledge of the jazz tradition, and displays his unique modern sensibility. He is an award-winning composer/bandleader, a recording artist whose 7 records as a leader have appeared on numerous “best records of the year” critic’s lists, and a renowned educator and jazz clinician who has taught at camps, universities, and conservatories around the world. He has performed with countless major jazz figures, including: Sonny Stitt, Brian Blade, Chris Potter, Joe Lovano, Billy Hart, Eddie Henderson, Lenny White, Bill Stewart, Hank Crawford and Dave Douglas. He is the author of three books on jazz for Sher Music Publishing: “The Jazz Musician’s Guide to Creative Practicing” (2007), “The Jazz Singer’s Guidebook (2009)”, and “The Jazz Harmony Book” (2013). David Berkman is an associate professor at Queens College in New York and is a visiting professor at the Prince Claus Conservatory in Groningen, The Netherlands.



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DAIKI YASUKAGAWA

The muscular sound of Daiki Yasukagawa's bass has become an omnipresent feature on jazz recordings from Japan. He is one of the region's most recorded jazz bassists, a consistent poll-winner in constant demand as a sideman with Japanese and international musicians traveling in Asia. He has performed and/or recorded with: Eddie Henderson, Marlena Shaw, Motohiko Hino, Dave Pietro and many others. He has also garnered critical attention for his projects as a leader, including his recent solo album, "Let My Tears Sing."

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