

NEW DIRECTIONS

Since its establishment in 1992, the Jazz Composers Collective's focus has been, and continues to be, on the creation of new music and building new audiences for jazz. For the past twelve years, that ideal was perhaps best expressed through our annual New York City-based concert series which, starting with our fifth season, was held at the New School University's Jazz Performance Space. Through that series, the Collective has presented over 100 concerts featuring the works of 49 composers, the performances of over 175 musicians, and the premiere of more than 300 compositions.

For the past year, the Jazz Composers Collective has been in a self-imposed state of transition. Our focus as an organization has turned outward and, increasingly, our mission has centered around bringing our music to a wider audience. 2002-2003 brought a busy schedule of album releases and tours by many of the ongoing projects of the Jazz Composers Collective. We have built strong partnerships with organizations, festivals, and clubs throughout the United States, Europe, Canada and Brazil. The downside is that we find ourselves with less time to focus on our New York-based activities, particularly the concert series.

So, it is with mixed emotions, but after much deliberation, that we have decided to end our regular concert series at the New School. We would like to thank the many people who made the series possible, especially Martin Mueller, Jon Rosenberg, Gayle Morgan and the Mary Cary Flagler Charitable Trust, Steve Holt and Rolando Cohen and, of course, the composers and musicians who participated and our loyal audience. It was a great run and we all had a ball!

Rest assured, the Collective will continue — as an organizational and promotional force behind much of what we do as composers and band leaders, and as an advocacy group for musicians and creative music. We will continue our annual Jazz Composers Collective Festival at the Jazz Standard in New York City, and I am happy to report that our our fourth annual event will be held April 13-18. The Festival will feature 9 bands led by the Composers-in-Residence of the Collective including CD release celebrations by Ben Allison, Frank Kimbrough and Ron Horton, the debut of our new project Lucky Charms: The Music of Lucky Thompson, as well as new music from Michael Blake and Ted Nash (read on for more information).

Future projects include more tours and recordings, special events, bringing our Collective Festival to other cities/countries, educational activities such as clinics and seminars, and appearances at the conferences of organizations such as the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) and the Doris Duke Foundation's Jazz Initiative Program. We are also looking into the idea of a 24-hour Internet Radio Station that would feature exclusive broadcasts of our extensive archive of past Collective concerts.

Here's wishing all of you health, happiness, peace, and music in 2004 and beyond.

— BEN ALLISON

Some of you may have noticed that we did not mail our usual fund drive letter this past June. We are still a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization and able to accept donations. Please send to: The Jazz Composers Collective, 43 East Tenth Street, Suite 4B, New York, NY 10003. Thank you!



FRANK KIMBROUGH, QUICKENING

Release Date: September 2003 (OmniTone Records - 15203)
 Recorded live at a Jazz Composers Collective concert
 Frank Kimbrough (piano), Ben Allison (bass), Jeff Ballard (drums)
www.omnitone.com/quickening
www.frankkimbrough.com



RON HORTON, SUBTEXTURES

Release Date: January 2004 (Fresh Sound, New Talent Records - FSNT175)
 Ron Horton (trumpet), Frank Kimbrough (piano), Ben Allison (bass), Matt Wilson (drums)
www.freshsoundrecords.com
r.horton@erols.com



BEN ALLISON & MEDICINE WHEEL, BUZZ

Release Date: May 2004 (Palmetto Records - PM2101)
 Ben Allison (bass), Michael Blake (tenor & soprano saxophones), Ted Nash (tenor saxophone, flute), Clark Gayton (trombone, bass trombone), Frank Kimbrough (piano, wurlitzer, prepared piano), Michael Sarin (drums)
www.palmetto-records.com
www.benallison.com

tour/concert info

BEN ALLISON'S PEACE PIPE • February 5
CROWELL HALL, Wesleyan Univ, Middletown, CT
 Info: 860-685-3355 • www.wesleyan.edu/CFA

MICHAEL BLAKE TRIO • March 10
55 BAR, New York City
 Info: 212-929-9883 • www.55bar.com

MICHAEL BLAKE TRIO • March 19-29
EUROPEAN TOUR: Denmark, Italy, Portugal
 Info: www.michaelblake.net

TED NASH & ODEON w/THE AUGUSTA BALLET • March 22-28
SACRED HEART CULTURAL CENTER • Augusta, GA
 Info: 706-261-0555 • www.augustaballet.org

JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE FESTIVAL
@ JAZZ STANDARD • April 13-18
JAZZ STANDARD, 116 East 27th Street, NYC
 Info: 212-576-2232 • www.jazzstandard.net

April 13: Ted Nash's Still Evolved
 April 14: Ron Horton Quintet / Michael Blake Trio
 April 15: Frank Kimbrough Trio
 April 16: Ben Allison & Medicine Wheel /
 Lucky Charms: The Music of Lucky Thompson
 April 17: Michael Blake Quintet /
 Lucky Charms: The Music of Lucky Thompson
 April 18: Ben Allison' Peace Pipe / Ted Nash & Odeon

collective notes

- Check out the very thorough and well-researched [feature on Michael Blake and the Collective](#) in the December issue of Air Canada's inflight magazine *EnRoute*. Written by Paul Wells, the article includes some very nice photos from last year's Collective Festival at the Jazz Standard taken by Michael Nemeth.
- Ted Nash has added a photo archives section to his web site at www.tednash.com/archives.html. Warning: Not for the faint of heart!
- Guest composers: BACK UP those DATs! Part of the mission of the Collective has been to provide our guest composers with high quality recordings of their concerts by Jon Rosenberg. We want to spread the word to all of our guest composers that they should back up their DAT's and preserve the documentation of their work with the Collective. Unlike CD's and DVD's, DAT tape does not have a 100-year lifetime expectancy. Please take the time to do it.