

Mel Martin and Bebop & Beyond

Bebop and Beyond is an acclaimed classical repertory jazz ensemble committed to working with some of the foremost performers and composers in jazz. Formed in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1983 by reed player, composer/arranger Mel Martin, the group has garnered international attention for their dynamic and innovative presentations and finely produced recordings of new arrangements of classic bop compositions by Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Tadd Dameron, Charles Mingus and others as well as forward looking originals by members of the group. Bebop and Beyond strives to bring an authentic interpretation to the classic repertoire and to invigorate the music with a broad and entertaining approach, drawing the audience into a musical environment that brings together the musical lineage of modern jazz including many of the later innovations and experimentations of the music. The collective musical experiences of members of the band reads like a Who's Who of jazz. Ranging from Bud Powell and John Coltrane to McCoy Tyner and Freddie Hubbard, the list also includes Benny Carter, Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Henderson, Charles Mingus, Art Blakey, Bobby Hutcherson, Jimmy Smith, Milt Jackson and many more. Bebop and Beyond's last recording was a collaboration with bop innovator Dizzy Gillespie which was his final studio date. The results of this can be heard on their recording BEBOP AND BEYOND PLAYS DIZZY GILLESPIE (Bluemoon R2 79170). They were also presented in performance with him in Jazz In The City's Jazz Master's Series as well as the Monterey Jazz Festival. Their previous recording BEBOP AND BEYOND PLAYS THELONIOUS MONK (Bluemoon R2 79154) was produced by Monk's original producer Orrin Keepnews and featured special guests Joe Henderson on tenor saxophone and Howard Johnson on tuba and baritone sax as well as faithful arrangements of many of Monk's more obscure works.

MEL MARTIN'S

JAZZ AND SAXOPHONE WEB SITE

http://www.melmartin.com/html_pages/

[B_B2k.html](http://www.melmartin.com/html_pages/B_B2k.html)

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Both of these recordings as well as the concert were funded in part for being of the highest artistic caliber by the National Endowment for the Arts and have been highly acclaimed. They recorded their first album BEBOP AND BEYOND (Concord CJ244) in 1984.

A new recording of BEBOP AND BEYOND is currently available. It includes Mel Martin - saxophones, Bobby Watson - alto saxophone, Jack Walrath - trumpet, Mike Longo & George Cables - piano, Ray Drummond - bass and Winard Harper & Billy Hart - drums. The recording will be called "FRIENDS and MENTORS" and will be all original compositions dedicated to the great masters that have influenced their music. A truly all-star lineup that will be available for festivals, clinics and masterclasses and selected clubs.

Bebop and Beyond is a 501(c)3 Not-for Profit Corporation

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Board of Advisors:

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