

ARTIST Title Label Perf/Sound	Top Traditional Selections O's Notes
MEL MARTIN & BENNY CARTER QUINTET T ^S <u>Just Friends</u> <i>Jazzed Media</i> 5/3	Mel plays tenor sax and flute with the late Benny Carter on alto. The rhythm section is Roger Kellaway (p), Jeff Chambers (b) and Harold Jones (d). You get nothing less than satisfaction from this quintet on six classics including 2 Carter originals and Martin's "Spritely". They open swinging hard on "Perdido" and the flame remains ignited throughout the set. This music was recorded at Yoshi's in 1994 when Carter was 87. Benny still sounded like he was 35 playing with all the passion and intensity that made him famous notably with his lengthy solo on "Just Friends"! Some music from this engagement was released as Mel Martin Plays Benny Carter but the six timeless tunes on this release are worthy of equivalent recognition.
BILLY TAYLOR & GERRY MULLIGAN T ^S <u>Live at MCG</u> <i>MCG</i> 4/5	This has to be one of the true treasures released in 2007, a live performance of two jazz legends recorded in 1993. The place was Pittsburgh's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and the players were Mulligan on baritone sax, Taylor playing the piano with Chip Jackson (b) and Carl Allen (d). Among the best tunes are "Laura", "Stompin' At The Savoy", "Indiana" and "Body And Soul".
JIMMY PONDER T ^K <u>Somebody's Child</u> <i>High Note</i> 4/2	Guitarist Jimmy Ponder plays with quiet confidence. He's not a speed king or trying to dazzle his audience with technique. But he plays with feeling, soul and as a band leader. The results are warm tunes that are timeless. He starts with a bluesy original "Kickin' Da Bobo", slows it down for "Too Late Now" and gets a little funky on "Wild is the Wind". The whole band swings on "Seven Steps to Heaven", a fair representation of the entire session. And we really enjoyed the guitar duet "There Will Never Be Another You" with producer Douglas Malone. Just sit back and enjoy it!

Are you ready for
O's Place Podcasts? We are
giving it serious consideration for 2008.
What do you think? Let us know with an
email to: O@Osplacejazz.com

ARTIST Title Label Perf/Sound	Top Video Selections O's Notes
VARIOUS ARTISTS T ^B <u>New Morning 25th Anniversary</u> <i>Inakustik</i> 4/5	This 2-Disc compilation celebrates the 25th Anniversary (in 2006) of the premier jazz spot in Paris. Drummer Alvin Queen hosts the first DVD (1994-2001) with Manu DiBango. And DiBango narrates the second disc (2002-2005). They introduce 25 performances from an all-star lineup. Among the best songs are Clark Terry's "Squeeze Me..." and "Road House" featuring Steve Lukather and Larry Carlton. Listening to Lou Donaldson before his performance of "Laura" gave us more appreciation for what we heard. These are just teasers for the contents. The second DVD includes an energetic performance from Omar Sosa and a large dose of blues. The collection captures the echoes from the walls of New Morning with visuals to match.
BOB BALDWIN <u>Memoirs From The Hudson</u> C ^R <i>City Sketches</i> 4/4	This is a recording from the largest contemporary jazz festival in Westchester County (NY) ever. It was a beautifully sunny day in July 2005. Baldwin's narrative commentary between the tracks is a definite enhancement to the video presentation. Bob plays keyboards and is joined by a wealth of talent including Chembo Corniel (congas) highlighted on "Cafezinho" and Marion Meadows for "Body Rhythm" and "South Beach". Both Marion and Bob took incredible solos on the latter warming the crowd. But the encore, "People Make the World Go Round" was just the ticket for this mellow audience. Look, listen and enjoy this summer set.
LARRY CORYELL C ^F <u>A Retrospective</u> <i>Inakustik</i> 4/4	Larry opens the CD with "Introduction", a slow blues burner. Coryell plays jazzy blues with a rock influence and a lot of speed. It's a heck of a combination that Larry brought to New York in 1965. This video documents the life of Coryell and how he influenced jazz, rock and blues. The drummer for the set is Bernard Purdie, a master on his own and a great friend of Coryell. Both David Hildago and James Valentine show up to share the stage. This is more than a video performance. Larry takes us through 14 of his best songs with conversations in between that help define his character. The bonus CD adds an encore and backstage rehearsals with several additional songs.