

The jazz piano artistry of Tony Pacini has been enthusiastically enjoyed by nightclub and festival audiences throughout the West coast as well as in his hometown of Portland, Oregon.

A piano student since the age of 5 Tony continued his music education at Mt. Hood Community College on a full music scholarship. In 1990 jazz critic Leonard Feather awarded Tony a full scholarship to the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.



Upon returning to Portland Tony immersed himself in the jazz scene performing with, most notably: Leroy Vinnegar, Bud Shank, Harry Allen, Ritchie Cole, Chuck Israels, Dan Faehnle, Claudio Roditi, Hadley Calliman, Mel Brown, Ron Steen, Nancy King and Rebecca Kilgore.

In addition to leading the Tony Pacini Trio, Tony Pacini is the pianist and musical director of the Mel Brown Quartet as well as producer of the Mel Brown Quartet's new hit release, *Girl Talk*. Tony's concert and festival highlights include:

- * The Jazz Society of Oregon's First Jazz Concert Series with tenor sax player/BMG recording artist Harry Allen, as well as performances with the Tony Pacini Trio.
- * Centrum Jazz Festival Port Townsend, WA. with Dick Berk, Chuck Israels, Dan Faehnle, Phil Baker, and Claudio Roditi.
- * The Jazz at Newport Festival with Marlena Shaw and the Mel Brown Quartet.
- * The Cathedral Park Jazz Festival with The Tony Pacini Trio, Leroy Vinnegar, Ritchie Cole, Dick Berk, Dan Faehnle, Mel Brown, and Mike Horsfall.
- * Jazz Alley (Seattle, WA.) with Mary Stallings.
- * Mt Hood Festival of Jazz with guitarist Dan Faehnle, Paul Mazzio, and Ron Steen.

Pacini's new CD, released in January 2007 is hitting the mark with jazz fans and critics alike. Reprinted below, the liner notes from "*Tony Pacini Trio Live At Jimmy Mak's*" offer information about and insight into the Trio members as well as the creation of the CD.

For more information about jazz pianist/composer/arranger Tony Pacini including audio samples visit: www.tonypacini.com

"An unexpected chain of events, beginning appropriately with a piano, led to this live recording. Thanks to Tiffany Sheahan and Classic Pianos, a beautiful Yamaha S-6 was sponsored for the Trio's first performance at Jimmy Mak's, Portland's premiere jazz club. Inspired by the Yamaha's responsive touch and depth of tone, Tony contacted Marc Davis of Aloha Sound and "*Tony Pacini Trio-Live At Jimmy Mak's*" is the result.

The CD features several of Tony's original compositions including the moody, compelling "*Beyond The Veil*" and a bright, pretty tune titled "*First Light*". Tony's trademark arrangements of jazz standards give listeners the delight of discovering new facets in classic musical gems. The wistfully hopeful "*Maybe September*" and an unexpected funk treatment of Cole Porter's "*Love For Sale*" are standouts.

The caliber of musicianship and mastery of jazz form are apparent to the listener. The players demonstrate strong personal styles crafted through years of study, stage and studio performance and respect for the jazz tradition.

On the drums: Tim credits Billy Higgins' philosophy-to play what the music calls for, no more no less, with shaping his thoughtful approach to the role of the drums in jazz. Tim's exceptional talent caught the ear of guitarist John Stowell, leading to performances with world class jazz vocalists Nancy King, Shirley Nanette and jazz guitar icon Herb Ellis.

On the bass: Long considered one of the West coast's first rate string bass players, Ed stepped onto the world stage in the 1970's, touring with jazz great Carmen McRae. Three recordings were produced during Ed's work with Carmen most notably the Grammy nominated "*Live At The Great American Music Hall*" on Blue Note Records, which also featured Joey Baron, Marshall Otwell and jazz giant Dizzy Gillespie. During the following years Ed toured and recorded with numerous legendary jazz figures, including the Toshiko Akiyoshi-Lew Tabackin big band, performing on another Grammy nominated recording.

On the piano: Born in Tokyo, Japan, pianist Tony Pacini came to Portland as an infant. A piano student since age 5, Tony led his first trio as a teenager, holding down weekends at a popular jazz spot. The piano made higher education possible for Tony, including study at Boston's Berklee College of Music, courtesy of a Leonard Feather Scholarship.

Once back in Portland Tony's playing won him the piano chair in guitarist Dan Faehnle's quartet, joining bassist Ed Bennett and drummer Mel Brown. After several years of working together, Tony and Ed enlisted Tim, and their shared musical vision was realized with the creation of *The Tony Pacini Trio*.

The new Trio sharpened their straight ahead sound performing at nightclubs and festivals before heading into the studio to record "*I'll Close My Eyes*", now in it's second pressing. While both Ed and Tony write much of the material for the critically acclaimed Mel Brown Quartet, Tony's unique arrangements and compositions are showcased on this CD.

This has been a musically memorable year for Pacini. In addition to his ongoing work as pianist and musical director of the Mel Brown Quartet and leading the Tony Pacini Trio, a number of individual performances are personal highlights. At the May release event for "*Piano A La Carte*" (*Tony's debut solo piano recording*) a standing room only audience was treated to the uncluttered beauty of the solo form as well as a captivating and polished presentation by the Trio. Concerts with former Count Basie vocalist Mary Stallings, tenor saxophone master Harry Allen and vocal powerhouse Marlena Shaw at Oregon's own Newport Festival of Jazz rounded out the year.

Recording on short notice without rehearsal, brings spontaneity to the bandstand. From the first notes, the musical energy envelopes the audience, who respond with unbridled applause. The room shifts from attentive to enrapt as the Trio glides effortlessly from ballad to bossa nova.

Whether you were present when this music was recorded, or are hearing it for the first time, the live jazz experience clearly comes through, giving every listener the best seat in the house."

-Marci W. Maitland

