

# Eclectic styles and "All That Jazz"



Bellevue Cadillac specializes in blues and jazz.

## BELLEVUE CADILLAC

Named CNN's Band to Watch for 1998, this swingin' septet serves a jazz lovin' audience a musical cocktail of jump-swing boogie and smoothed-out, bluesy vocals, delivered in the inimitable baritone styling of Joe Cooper. As the front man for the group, Cooper's vocal range is from bass to tenor. Plus, his bantering antics between songs are sure-fire crowd pleasers.

Take a look at mainstream America through the eyes of Doug "The Professor" Bell. His stories about Prozac, coffee, the Internal Revenue Service and even love in song, dance and fine-guitar playing musically demonstrate the trials and tribulations of our modern times.

The band swirls together neo-swing at its best with "Mr. Memphis," aka Bruce Cummings on baritone sax, Pete, "The Cat" Wood playing upright bass, "Bebop," aka Jeff Giancomelli on tenor sax, piano man Tim "Miles" Long and Russell "Holly" Wood on drums.

Their new swing compilations, *Pay, Pay, Pay*, (Warner Bros.), *Prozac*, (House of Blues) and *Cuppa Joe* (Sony Records) were released in 1999.

## MONTY ALEXANDER

Jamaica born Monty Alexander started his musical career at age six when he first began piano lessons. By the time he reached his teens, he was invited to sit in with some of Jamaica's most prominent musicians' bands. His own band, Monty and the Cyclones, recorded songs which charted on the Jamaica Hit Parade from 1958 to 1960.

While playing with Art Mooney's Orchestra in Las Vegas in 1963, he was discovered by Billy Rizzo. Hired by Rizzo to

play in his New York City Club, Jilly's, he was the accompanist for celebrities like Frank Sinatra.

Among his many credits are performances with jazz giants Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry and Sonny Rollins. He worked for producer/director Clint Eastwood on the film *Bird*. In 1991, he assisted Natalie Cole in a tribute to her father, Nat "King" Cole. The album, *Unforgettable*, won seven Grammy awards. He has performed in Carnegie Hall and at the Montreux Jazz Festival in



Monty Alexander

Switzerland where in 1995, with his all Jamaican reggae group, he recorded *Yard Movement* live for Island Records.

By the end of 1996, he had recorded more than 50 CDs under his own name.

At the present time, he is dividing his talents among performances as a solo, in a trio, playing with orchestras or big bands and a return to his roots with the unique jazz-reggae sound of *Strir It Up* (Telarc), released in May, 1999.

In *Strir It Up*, his debut with Telarc, Alexander pays tribute to Bob Marley and gives the full jazz treatment to Marley's well-known

compositions, *I Shot The Sheriff*, *No Woman No Cry*, *Is This Love*, *Jammin and*, of course, *Strir It Up*.

Alexander calls the recording "a perfect example of how two cultures can come together; jazz and reggae musicians are really going towards the same goal." Of its content he said, "I've long wanted the opportunity to do a collection like this, to play with a group of my brothers from Jamaica and to put my jazz spin on it."

## JERRY GONZALEZ & THE FORT APACHE BAND

Jerry Gonzalez & the Fort Apache Band are dedicated to playing uncompromised Afro-Caribbean jazz. Described by reviewers as being flexible in scope, a Fort Apache tune may start out swinging, segue into a Cuban guaguanco, take on a shuffle, then return to swing.

Gonzalez formed the band following his critically acclaimed recording of *Ya Vo Me Cure* in 1980. His first high-profile professional engagement, however, came when, at the age of 19, he appeared with Dizzy Gillespie.

With the addition of saxophonist Joe Ford in 1991, the group became a sextet. They received Grammy nominations for their recordings of *Pensativo* and *Crossroads*. In 1995, Fort Apache was awarded The Beyond Group of the Year by both *Downbeat* Magazine's readers' and critics' polls.

Following their 1996 release, *Firedance*, their first live recording as a sextet, the ensemble won the award for Best Jazz Group in *Playboy* magazine's 1997 readers' poll. They swept the Latin Jazz category at the 1998 New York Jazz Awards, winning both the industry and journalist polls.

The band's success is attributed primarily to its ability to maintain a constant line-up since 1990. Its members are talented, experienced professionals. Andy Gonzalez is considered to be the premier Latin Jazz bassist in the world. Drummer Steve Berrios is called the premier Latin Jazz drummer on the scene. Pianist Larry Willis' credits include performances on more than 250 recordings, nine as a leader, as well as appearances with Jackie McClean, Woody Shaw and Wynton Marsalis. Alto sax man, Joe Ford, was a featured soloist with McCoy Tyner. He penned

first recording with the ensemble.

Today, the Fort Apache Band is hailed by critics as one of the most respected and exciting ensembles in modern music. Having realized its vision of seamless Afro-Caribbean jazz, the members strictly adhere to Jerry Gonzalez' requirement that they understand how to play the blues.

"I don't want to compromise the rhythm and I don't want to compromise the jazz playing," Gonzalez said.



Jerry Gonzalez

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