

# Music Magic News and Views



*Music with a Touch of Class, Winter 2009*

[www.JimHouck.com](http://www.JimHouck.com) - [GoodMusic@JimHouck.com](mailto:GoodMusic@JimHouck.com)

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## Music Magic Magazine

Winter 2009, Issue VI

### Jim Houck Productions, Inc.

#### Mission Statement

- Jim Houck Productions, Inc. is dedicated to producing the highest quality music resulting in outstanding achievement in the aesthetic arts, academic excellence, prosperous business achievement and service to the community.
- We deliver the finest quality audio recordings and video productions for education, business and the music community.
- Our strength is producing new and established artists in the jazz genre.
- Through growth we provide opportunity for our artists, outstanding high quality products for the music business, and make good profits for our investors.

#### BassNote



#### Records

*An independent label producing new and established artists in the jazz genre.*

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perspective.

## I. Reviews

### “Take 5 for Christmas

Well, as I sit gazing out the window this snowy December evening in Fort Collins Colorado, what could be better? As the selections tick off in perfect sequence one is drawn to the time when music had a subtle intimacy. The voices and instruments blend so well as to draw you into a cozy fireside scene reminiscent of when there was 'Good Music' on every station and street corner. And so it is with "Take 5 For Christmas". Each selection has meaning. You can feel the artistic craftsmanship in all aspects of this album from the arrangements to the execution. Kudos to Joe Smith, Recording Engineer!! And to John and Judy for stepping into this experience. It's time to wind down for the night and make sure the cats are in; ..... oh OK, just one more 'Hot-Buttered-Rum' and a last run through "Take 5 For Christmas". Pete Frosio

### Take 5 for Christmas by ORPHEUS JAZZ

This fine new CD produced by Jim Houck Productions brings a new and light hearted Jazz approach to many of our holiday favorites. Houck Productions, already recognized widely for its fine jazz touch on "A Touch of Class" now presents this excellent collection; a perfect fit for the holidays and perfect to curl up by the fire and enjoy a musical evening from a jazz

The principals, all fine musicians in their own right, have appeared regularly with Orpheus and now present this exciting new collection in a creative new format. Bill Vanlear covers the keyboards, Roger Rossi is on trumpet, Terry Dearmore covers vocals and occasional harpoon and Tom Dell'omo is on percussion. Tom replaces Paul Clarke who unfortunately passed away this year and to whom this CD is dedicated. Paul is heard on drums on "A Child Is Born". John and Judy Clark assist on vocals and Joe Smith provides technical support.

Several of the featured numbers include: "Chestnuts Roasting By an Open Fire" An old and most welcome tune set to a quiet jazz tempo. Terry Dearmore brings his mellow baritone to the fore. The group then goes upbeat with Roger Rossi on trumpet taking this favorite home. "Frosty" takes a lovely upbeat swing to an old favorite with Tom carrying the load on drums. Jim Houck is the heart of Orpheus and one of the areas best bass men. Jim steps out on "Santa Claus" with his thoughtful and sophisticated bass and is then followed by Terry who jumps in with a fine harmonica solo, somehow very appropriate to the season. Orpheus next treats us to a cheerful and rollicking rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" which sets the pleasant and sophisticated tone for this jazz album for this writer and is particularly exemplary of the sophisticated and excellent musicianship of Orpheus and its musicians other numbers

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include "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas", "Blue Christmas" with a mildly country flavor, "Let It Snow" with Roger Rossi which just begs for an open fire, popcorn and perhaps even, chestnuts. Also included is a lovely rendition of "Ave Maria", "Auld Lang Syne" and many others.

Jim Houck Productions has produced a charming Jazz and lyrical CD of a melodious set of many of our favorite holidays classics. It is a marvelous collection of our holiday favorites in a jazz mode. This album will be a favorite of jazz lovers well into the future. It is clear that Jim Houck Productions will continue to grow in reputation as additional albums are delivered to a jazz loving public

John Clark

**“Orpheus, whether they are backing up a singer or playing on their own, is a fine tuned musical instrument!** Their style of Full Speed Ahead Jazz is a very unique sound. The group gives us a fresh, new brand of jazz that is being widely accepted by its audiences. Sometimes you'll hear reminisces of the styles of Getz, Jobim, Kenton and others of that ilk. Their delightful tonality is evident in the blends, nuances and subtleties of their craft.

Reinhardt Liebig on piano, Jim Houck on bass, John O'Brien on guitar, Al Klopfer on drums with Troy Campbell on Saxophone and flute, gives us a combined talent that only many

would wish for. Once you've listened to their sounds, **I'm sure you'll agree this group is a real Winner!**”

*Louis Levy - Review Magazine*

**“A Touch of Class! Exactly what the Orpheus Jazz quartet delivers with an impressive, tastily, performed, entertainingly pleasing, CD menu of 10 of the best tunes ever set to music.** Launching with the ever-favorite swing masterpiece, Just Friends, the quartet rises immediately to the summit of musical excellence, coalescing improvisation, and smooth rhythm in the most invitingly pleasing sounds that lure one to new heights of listening pleasure culminating with that melancholy treasure, Yesterdays. Improvisations of tenor man **Troy Campbell**, bassist **Jim Houck**, Pianist **Reinhardt Liebig**, and drummer **Al Klopfer**, are creatively intriguing, faithfully delivered in good taste, and high praise to the tunes they adorn with exciting ideas. Music backgrounds of the musicians on this CD are illuminated with high altitude experience, **Campbell's** resume flashes stints with The New **Glen Miller band**, and singer **Vic Damone**, to excerpt a few examples; **Houck**, whose bass playing sparkles with taste, technique, and ear-pleasing intonation, toured with the Guthrie Theater, Paula Kelly and the Modernaires; **Liebig**, born in Germany, struts out influences of **Shearing, Tatum and Peterson**; **Klopfer** at age 10 started drumming his way up fast, while still in high school **playing with the likes of**

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**Sammy Nestico, Bill Watrous, and Earl "Fatha" Hines** to name a few marquee greats.

**Summation of the Orpheus Jazz CD merits the conclusion:**

**RANKS WITH THE BEST!"**

*Tom Vinicguerra*

**"Orpheus Jazz** - this *supremely versatile ensemble*, brings all the Janus-faced sounds of jazz to a contemporary atmosphere. With a strong sense of lyricism and pervasive rhythm, this group leaves an indelible impression on listeners."

*Gregory Walczak*

"I've followed almost everything Jim Houck Productions has done since the mid 90's from "Blue Ridge Kind of Love" right on up to "Thanks for the Memories" with the Troy W. Campbell Quartet. What a fine piece of work! It is undoubtedly the finest presentation of nine of the best standards around! Troy is magnificent on the woodwinds. Jim Houck adds much more than a bass line to each composition... almost a complementary melody. Listen carefully to "Body and Soul." Don Durkee's keyboard both fills in and takes charge in a way I have not heard in a long time. The percussion by Robbie Liebrick is very effective and un-obtrusive. Please don't make me pick the best out of "Jazz by the Fireside" and "A Touch of Class" and "Thanks for the Memories."

*Pete Frosio, Fort Collins Colorado*

**"Orpheus** has a wonderfully sophisticated style with its creative renditions of familiar jazz standards and a swinging, up-tempo style that is the ultimate cool jazz sound," says jazz critic, John Clark. "They remind me of Stan Getz, Dave Brubeck or Oscar Peterson's great sounds, only with their own style."

*John Clark*

**"O**nce again Troy W. Campbell's beautiful saxophone has graced our jazz scene with the release by *Jim Houck Productions* of Troy's latest CD, The Troy W. Campbell Quartet's "Thanks For The Memories". Campbell's lyrical sax is backed by Jim Houck on Bass who collaborated with Troy on the well-received Orpheus Jazz's "Touch of Class" CD, Don Durkee on keyboard and Robbie Liebrick on drums. Troy reaches new lyrical highs on a number of standards such as "Thanks", "Georgia", "Willow Weep for Me", as well as "Blues in the Closet", "Good Life" and "Body and Soul." **Troy W. Campbell is as fine a saxophonist as I have ever heard and clearly ranks with Stan Getz and Paul Desmond with his clear, clean sweet passages and creative touches in this superb CD album."**

*John Clark; New Notes Newsletter*

**"T**hat CD is really out of this world, just fantastic, **Orpheus Jazz a Touch of Class**, beautiful! Just previewed it a few minutes ago, and you get 10 out of 10. If you want to call me at 703-569-1756. I think when you perform at

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the Hilton you ought to get more people to buy your CD, its really worthwhile. I'm so glad that you told me about it and gave me the opportunity to have your CD. It's really excellent, very enthusiastic, great! Very innovative, very good playing, great Bass playing, those solos are excellent! Each rendition is original and outstanding!"

**John Moffett**



## II. Local Virginia Jazz...

**Mondays at the Maplewood Grill  
featuring Reinhardt Liebig**



Reinhardt Liebig

132 Branch Road Vienna  
703-281-0070 - 8:00

French cuisine and fine Jazz

Reinhardt Liebig was born in Halle, East Germany, also the birthplace of Georg Friedrich Handel, the composer of the Oratorio, "The Messiah ". In 1958, he

defected with his parents to the **United States**, settling in the **Cleveland, Ohio metro area**. He started playing the piano in **1965** and had his first gigs in **1971**, playing in restaurants, hotels, clubs and bars in the Cleveland metro area. In **1971** he was accepted to **Cooper school of Art in Cleveland** and thru a scholarship graduated in **1975** with double a diploma in **Communication Design and Photography**. He pursued his two loves of music and art by playing the piano nights and working as a commercial photographer during the day for many of the major studios in town. In **1985 Reinhardt** got an offer to open a Photography studio in **Phoenix, Arizona** and resumed his photography working on ads for major retailers and advertising agencies while continuing

his piano playing at a variety of venues in the evenings. **Reinhardt** met his wife **Pamela**, a fine artist, they married in **1986** and have one son, **Zachary Johannes**. **Reinhardt** and family moved to the **D.C area in 1998**, which is also Pamela's birthplace, so they could be closer to both their families again. **Reinhardt** is presently working as a freelance photographer receiving assignments thru his agent, **Barry Soorenko**, of **Photogroup, Inc.**, in Silver Spring, Maryland. **Reinhardt's** work can be viewed at [www.photogroupusa.com](http://www.photogroupusa.com) . **Reinhardt's** music has been inspired by such artists as **Scott Joplin, Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson, Art Tatum, Don "Art Tatum Jr." Phillips** ( a long time friend in music ), along with the classical composers like **Chopin, Beethoven and Bach**. **Reinhardt** employs these influences as he plays jazz

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standards, Broadway, blues, classical and the popular song form into his performances. At his **Maplewood grill** venue, **Reinhardt** enjoys jamming with guest musicians while also providing accompaniment for Vocalist' s that drop in on a regular basis as well.

You can hear **Reinhardt** performs at the **Maplewood Grill**, Vienna, Virginia ... 703-281-0070.

[www.maplewoodgrill.com](http://www.maplewoodgrill.com) Wed. - 7:00 - 11:00pm,

Fri. 7:30 - 12:30am , Sat. 7:30 - 12:30am

Also see him at the **Ritz Carlton**, Tysons Corner, **Thursday' s 2-6 pm** for afternoon tea.

Contact info :

Email - [reinliebig@verizon.net](mailto:reinliebig@verizon.net) / Cell - 703-615-8383

**The Ice House**

760 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia

703-437-4500

Live Jazz Friday and Saturday 8-12

Appearing at the Ice House Monthly

**The Bob Meyers Trio**

Featuring **Terry Dearmore**

with **Woody Hume and Jim Houck**

Get your views published...

Send your music reviews and comments to:

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## **Bangkok Blues**

926 West Broad St.

Falls Church

703-534-0095

Enjoy Gourmet Thai food.

## **Pistone's at 7 Corners**

Sunday afternoon Jam session starting at 4:00.

## **Colvin Run Swing Dance**

Every first and third Saturday 9-12

Walter O. Harrison, President

703-430-6557



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**Open Mic & Sing-A-Long  
with Karl Anthony on Drums**

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**THURSDAY...  
PISTONES... KAREN CHAE 7:30 PM**



**OPEN MIC & Dancing All Night  
Check Out Chef Telly's \$10 Special  
MAPLEWOOD GRILL : TERRY LEE RYAN 7 PM**



**Cajun Rock & Blues  
OPEN MIC All Night  
ELECTRIC PALM : TOM SAPUTO 7:30 PM  
\*\* NEW \*\* NEW \*\* NEW \*\***

**OPEN MIC & Dancing All Night  
FLAMING PIT : RICK ELDRIDGE 7:30 PM  
\*\* NEW \*\* NEW \*\* NEW \*\***

**Jazz \*\* Swing \*\* Ragtime  
Open Mic - Singers Welcome**

---

**NEWS & NOTES... 2 "NEW" Venues..  
# 1 - TOM SAPUTO will be doing a SPECIAL  
THURSDAY NIGHT  
Gig This THURSDAY (DEC 10TH) at the  
ELECTRIC PALM located  
in Woodbridge right off RT 95 Check it out at:  
<http://www.pwmarina.com/content.asp?nav=116970&>**

## THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA PIANO LOUNGE ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY PRESENTS...



**RAIN RAIN GO AWAY,  
THERE ARE PLACES I HAVE TO GO...  
BUT IF I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE,  
I'D RATHER HAVE RAIN THAN SNOW!!!  
NO WEATHER Problems Tonight or  
Tomorrow So Let's Get Out There and..  
SING !!!!!**

**WEDNESDAY...  
SERBIAN CROWN - TOM SAPUTO 7:30 PM**



**OPEN MIC & Dancing All Night  
Great Dance Floor  
MAPLEWOOD GRILL - REINHARDT 7 PM**

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cpid=9999

Tom is hoping all his supporters will drop by and join in the Fun. This could become a Once a Month event if things work out..

# 2 - The FLAMING PIT in Gaithersburg is not New to the Piano Lounge circuit, especially to those of you living in Maryland.. But their is a NEW MAN of sorts behind the Keys on Thursdays.. RICK ELDRIDGE.. <http://www.theflamingpit.com>

Rick is a marvelous Piano man, who also part of Fascinatin' Rhythm a great Swing & Ragtime Band and some of you may have heard him several months back at the Serbian Crown .. If you out and around that part of town on Thursday, stop in a give him a listen..

Vocalists and Instrumentalists are Welcome...

=====

=  
BIG SHOW THIS SUNDAY!!!

You Better Watch Out.. You Better Not Cry..

You Better Not Pout, I'm Telling You Why..

SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN !!!

This SUNDAY at VESPUCCI in Fairfax, don't miss the Big SANTA and the ELVES SHOW



Featuring CHRIS RYAN, LINDA RICHARDS, ROBIN INGENITO, KATHY JONES & SANDRA FERONY

and of course SANTA Himself..

Hosted by MARK RICHARDS and with the Music of TOM SAPUTO.. There will Holiday Sing-a-Longs and Dancing & lots of FUN for everyone..

Everyone is asked to try to bring a New Unwrapped Toy

for the TOYS FOR TOTS collection Box if possible..

This BIG SHOW will mark a week of appearances by Santa at several Piano Lounges with Music & Fun and all to hopefully collect lots of Toys everywhere for the NEEDY CHILDREN of the Area..

Thanks in advance for Generosity...

CARRIE OAKIE

*Great Thanks to Mark Richards for providing this summary of local events.*

## III. Meet the BAND

**Orpheus Jazz - Take 5 for Christmas**

**Roger Rossi - trumpet, Terry Dearmore - vocals, Bill VanLear - keyboards, Tom Dell'omo - drums, Jim Houck - Bass**



Review of Take 5 for Christmas by Pete Frosio

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## Band Resumes

**ROGER ROSSI, Rog is recently retired from "The U.S. Army Band" where he finished a 33 year career as a Sergeant Major and trumpet soloist with "The Army Blues Jazz Ensemble". He has performed with jazz greats such as Clark Terry, Doc Severinson, Arturo Sanduval, Maureen McGoverin, The N.Y. Voices and many more. His travels have taken him around the world and across the U.S. to many colleges and jazz festivals. He has performed for seven different presidents and many world leaders at the**

**White House and State Department.**

**Rog can be heard on many big band recordings and is considered to be a fine section player. He has been free lancing on trumpet and drums in the D.C. area for 35 years. He is most proud of his many fine students who have gone on to be successful performers and teachers.**

"As a music aficionado who has heard many great players over these many years, I consider you to be one of the best bass players that I have ever heard. No BS!"

*Frank Jamison*

**JIM HOUCK, Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Jim Houck has been a bass player from an early age and began performing while still in high school. Jim has performed/toured with The Guthrie Theater, Paula Kelly and the Modernaires, Russ Carlyle, Marilyn Sellers, Easy Smith, Ed Berger and the Jazz All-Stars, Gene White, the Ron Lee Quintet, Augsburg College**

**Orchestra Jazz Band and Concert Band and many others. Jim has recorded with the Doc Dikeman Big Band, the Difficult Run Big Band, and Orpheus Jazz.**

Jim has also produced several CD's and produces a TV show called **Jazz Perspectives** for Arlington Cable Television.

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**TERRY DEARMORE** was a studio vocalist in Nashville, TN for 16 years. He sang background vocals for many different recording artists on numerous albums and singles, as well as lending his voice to hundreds of commercial products such as Budweiser, Toyota Forerunner, Subaru Outback and Greyhound Bus Lines. He also recorded albums with Jubal on Elektra Records and with Barefoot Jerry on the Monument and Columbia Record Labels. Besides singing, Terry plays guitar, bass and harmonica in recording sessions and live gigs. He is also a published songwriter and independent producer.

**BILL VANLEAR**, Bill played clarinet, sax, and piano with the 3rd Marine Air Wing Band in El Toro, California from 1976-1979. During the eighties and nineties, Bill and his quartet played in the night clubs of Southern California, including The Mozart Cafe in San Juan Capistrano, The Cannery in Newport Beach, Club Grille at the Ritz Carlton in Dana Point, and Studio Cafe in Corona Del Mar. The Bill VanLear Jazz Quartet featured Luretta

**McCray on vocals and Dick Dow on Bass.** Bill also played solo piano at the Ritz Carlton in Dana Point. Now, he can often be found playing piano at the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. He also plays with the Difficult Run Jazz Band and Orpheus Jazz.

**TOM DELL'OMO** received both Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Performance/Composition degrees from the University of North Texas. He served as Director of Percussion at The University of Montana before returning to UNT to begin his doctoral studies. Tom won his current position with The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in 2001 where he performs daily for various ceremonies and special events around the National Capitol Region.

## The Troy W. Campbell Quartet

*Thanks for the Memories*

**Troy W. Campbell - sax ,  
Robbie Liebrick - drums, Don Durkee -  
piano, Jim Houck - Bass**



"Troy W. Campbell is as fine a saxophonist

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as I have ever heard and clearly ranks with Stan Getz and Paul Desmond with his clear, clean sweet passages and creative touches in this superb CD album."

*John Clark*

## Special Feature

### *Interview with Troy Campbell*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *Our special guest today is Troy Campbell. Troy, why did you pick the name "Thanks for the Memories" for your new album?*

**Troy Campbell:** *I guess I've been a dear fan of Bob Hope for so many years, from back in the 40's I guess, and Bob has always been a favorite of mine. Since he passed on I thought I would do an album in his memory.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *Can you tell us something about the style of this album as opposed to earlier works you've done?*

**Troy Campbell:** *I picked these primarily for senior citizens, although some younger people will enjoy it. We wanted to keep in some ballad moods and some jumpier tunes that some of these folks may know and understand as opposed to Rock and Rap that goes on today.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *I noticed that your style of playing is a very subtle cool style similar to Stan Getz. Are you enjoying that style and do you think that's going to continue*

*to be popular?*

**Troy Campbell:** *It didn't hurt Stan Getz! I guess its just my style. As a young man I was told not to imitate or copy anybody, be your own man. I try to stay away from sounding like; well there are so many great players, its kind of hard not to be similar to some of them. But, yea I will probably continue doing it the rest of my life.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *What advice could you give to young saxophone players today?*

**Troy Campbell:** *Practice! A lot of them are learning jazz but they don't know the chords. And that's where it's at, in the chords system, the minors, majors, sevenths, diminished, anything like that. And then memorize them, so that they can work with a sheet and chart with chords and improvise that way. It's probably the easiest way to do it. So many go around the back way and just bend the melody and it works for some and some it doesn't. I would say overall, practice and learn your chords and memorize them and then work with records and radio station music to hone down their skills.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *Thanks for coming by today Troy and Good Luck with your new Album, Thanks for the Memories.*

**DON DURKEE** - Attended The American

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*Music with a Touch of Class, Winter 2009*

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University Kreeger School of Music working with Orchestral and Chamber Ensembles there. Don studied Piano with two premier Washington, DC area pianists: Mel Clement and John Phillips. He has been the House Pianist at the Roadhouse Inn and Skyline Inn in Washington, D.C.

I chose material for this CD which I felt would offer a harmonically rich sound, yet could still "cook" rhythmically. Some of these tunes are 60+ years old, but good music is immortal no matter when it was written. "Easy Livin" (featured on this CD) is not heard much, but it is one of the finest jazz classics. It is yours to enjoy.

**DON DURKEE**

*pianist, "Thanks for the Memories".*

## *Interview with Don Durkee*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *We are interviewing the keyboard player for Troy Campbell's album, The Troy Campbell Quartet, this is Don Durkee. How long have you known Troy and how long have you played together with him?*

**Don Durkee:** *I've known Troy for the past six years. We started at Colvin Run in Great Falls. I could recognize a tremendous talent and playing ability in him, and we have worked together ever since.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *What style of playing are you going to approach as you*

*record this new album Thanks for the Memories?*

**Don Durkee:** *My style I guess is kind of a combination of R&B and some jazz and so forth. I started taking lessons from Mel Clement who played over here at Billy Martin's Carriage House since 1965. And he taught me keyboard harmony and how to use the various chord changes, how to use the cycle of fourths, how to use the style here which I use. And I guess its a blend of R&B and jazz together.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *On the new album, Thanks for the Memories, which one of the songs is your favorite?*

**Don Durkee:** *My favorite tune was written by Leo Robinson and Ralf Ranger in about 1938 or so. Its called Easy Livin, and its a fabulous tune.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *I noticed that you are going to be using some String Effects on this Album, why?*

**Don Durkee:** *I just basically like the symphonic sound of the bass and the violins together and the cellos. It makes a very nice blended sound I think.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *I also noticed that you are going to be using a vibrophone type sound. Do you have a special place you are going to be using that?*

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**Don Durkee:** *In two of the up tunes I'm doing the vibraphone thing. I'm trying to work in with some swing stuff, trying to get some Terry Gibbs or Lynol Hampton mixed in there.*

**Music Magic Magazine:** *Who were some of your favorite keyboard players?*

**Don Durkee:** *Without a doubt, Peterson and Bill Evans, Johnny Costa, the great one from Pittsburg. Troy got me onto him; he's an absolute genius! Of course Art Tatum. I grew up with the boogie-woogie style of playing, my father used to play for me, Albert Ammons, Pete Johnson type of thing, and that has helped.*



**ROBBIE LIEBRICK** - Has played drums with Tom Principato and recorded in Nashville with Bob Laman and Steve Warner on an album called *Alive and Well*, produced by Johnny Cash.



## IV. Cover Model

### Eleanor Houck - God's Christmas Carol

Eleanor is our Cover Model and a writer. Here is Eleanor's Christmas message.  
God's Christmas Carol

If he carried the weight of the world on his shoulders can he not bring you through your storm? Are you lost and broken? Has your heart been ripped open? Does Jesus not love you so much that he died on the cross for you? Does Jesus love you so much he shed his blood for you?

He died for you and me to set the captive free!!! He shed his blood so the dead would be

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raised, so the deaf could hear and the blind could see!!! He died for all of us captive to be set free!!! He lives in us and walks with us every single day!!! He loves us more than we could ever know and he chastises us when we are wrong!!! He did these things for us so we could be free free free!!! The baby born in a manger, grew up to be a Jewish carpenter and then became the savior of the world when he died on a cross and then rose from the dead!!! He went back to heaven to prepare it for us so when he returns for us we will be free to live with him in glory!!!

## **Eleanor's tips:**

"My tips on makeup are go easy on the blush, use a lighter on your eyeliner (it makes it softer and easier to put on) and BLEND your base to prevent a line."

**Eleanor is modeling for  
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GoodMusic@jimhouck.com**



**Easy** Smith was everyone's friend and an outstanding musician. His professional performing life spans most of the big bands through the big band era of American Jazz, including the Dorsey Brothers band.

His knowledge of the history of jazz was a veritable encyclopedia of data. The stories, antidotes and jokes, he told, were very enlightening, refreshing and educational.



## **V. Tribute to Easy Smith**

I had the wonderful opportunity to perform and record with Easy. And I must say that it was very EASY to work with him.

His enthusiasm for playing all types of music and for performing the very best selections, was unequaled!

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He was a player's player. He could perform equally well on clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor and sing. His heartwarming love of music and the fans always came through for all to enjoy.



Easy's love of children and encouraging young musician's was very important to the community. I remember one New Year's Eve, when Easy let a child direct the big band. This was a touching sight and a wonderful way to bring in the New Year.

*Jim Houck*



## VI. Dedication to Tom Vinciguerra

**Tom Vinciguerra** was a wonderful musician and a great friend. His dedication to music and the arts was outstanding. Tom shared with me some of his thoughts about Jazz, and I want to share those thoughts with you. **A summation of the Tom's life merits the conclusion:**

**RANKS WITH THE BEST!"**

**Thank you Tom, Jim Houck**

### *Comments on Jazz*

*by Thomas Vinciguerra*

*Like a sugar-coated pill, Jazz is gulped by music lovers with a variety of melodic and harmonic tastes: swing, rock-- hard, acid, soft, etc., and classic. The word, Jazz, itself radiates many meanings aside from music: animation, enthusiasm, nonsense, miscellaneous, and even means to exaggerate or lie to, as in "Don't jazz me."*

*The irony of Jazz music is that its practitioners are worlds apart in their concept of how jazz should be played. Rock jazz musicians, often rightly so, are berated for the shallowness and monotony of harmony and melody, relying for appreciation almost entirely on rhythm.*

*On the other hand, well known swing jazz musicians rank among the world's greatest artists, not only for technical ability, but also for melodic and harmonic originality and creativity.*

*One thing is certain about Jazz. It is a native American style, a precious gift that Americans have been enjoying since its solo and ensemble improvisations and chord patterns first emanated from the South more than a century ago, gripping*

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*the entire country and still spreading throughout the world.*

*And Jazz aficionados will tell you that Orpheus, the mythological Greek poet-musician, dazzles the angels with American Jazz.*



## VII. Troy Campbell

**Troy** Campbell's special blend of sophistication and easy listening melodic sounds, set him apart from other musicians.

**DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE** said it best, "...top jazz talent. Among the jazz attractions have been the Troy Campbell quartet..."

In the recent few years I have known Troy, the experience of performing and recording with him, has been one of the richest and most fulfilling times of my musical career.

A common bond with all people is created with

Troy's public performances. I have witnessed all ages groups enjoying his mixture of highly complex, yet easy to listen to and understand, statements of melodic phrasing.

I witnessed one performance where four children were so enchanted with Troy's playing that they insisted their parents purchase the *Touch of Class* CD.

Troy has been compared to **Stan Getz** and **Paul Desmond**. This is probably because, Troy uses the playfulness of a child blended with the highly difficult expertise of a master saxophonist like **Phil Woods**.

Hat's off to Troy, as he continues to lead the pack into the new millennium.

*Jim Houck*

## VIII. John Clark

### THE GIFT OF MUSIC

The first coherent sounds I heard as a child were those of my mother crooning to me. Her voice was beautiful, soft, and gentle with a marvelous clarity and when she sang I had an instant feeling of peace and security. As time passed I heard another melodious voice, but different. It was deeper and more powerful. It was my father who was also a singer. As I grew I learned the beauty of singing and music and the wonderful affect it had on me and on those who listened to it. "It was a gift" they said.

My mother sang the lead in most of the

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high school and college operettas and even sang on the first television broadcast in our city which went from an impromptu studio on the fourth floor of a department store to a show window on the street. My grandparents who were attending the performance heard a voice in the crowd say, "it is a gift".

As a child I heard my parents singing almost daily and I was encouraged to join in and so I did. Both parents sang in the church choir and my father was an active member of the local barbershoppers, as a fine baritone. In due course I joined the choir and my little brother who was a marvelous boy soprano with a beautiful clear voice that charmed the parishioners. "It was a gift" they said.

So I grew up in a musical family and almost daily and at each family holiday and especially at Christmas time one of the greatest gifts I received after the closeness and love of family, was music.

As the years went by I heard the great music of the world; the great choirs, the magnificent orchestras, the popular songs and the thrill of music of other cultures and the marvelous improvisational themes of jazz, given to the world. Another Christmas is here now with its gifts of family, love and health, and music. I hear the sounds of music going out to the world with their messages of hope and peace and forgiveness to all the peoples of the world.

Last year I was Christmas shopping with my wife, another singer. As we entered the department store we heard a Christmas song being played and the marvelous acoustics of the tiled doorway. So we stopped impulsively to sing. As other shoppers passed us they smiled and thanked us and we realized we had inadvertently given them a simple gift for the holiday. It was the gift of music.

## IX. Terry Dearmore



I've always wondered why we only sing carols at Christmas. After all, they are mainly songs of joy and goodwill, and don't we need to hear about that all year long? Then, this year, I actually got the chance to do that by working with Orpheus Jazz Ensembles' Christmas CD, "Take 5 for Christmas".

Now, without a doubt, I am convinced that Carols are the best musical medicine created. I have had at least one of about two dozen of these little gems humming in my head each day for almost nine months now, and I've been in a better mood than any I can remember in years!

While it is true that, as I often hum aloud, I have received some strange looks and even the occasional catty comment from those who hear me, especially in 95 degree summertime swelter, it did not deter my sense of reverie and good will. I have been the jolly old elf himself, you might say.

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And hasn't that been the goal since even before Ebenezer Scrooge uttered those famous words, "...and I shall keep Christmas in my heart the whole year long!"? Well, I daresay I have almost achieved that very thing this year, just by rolling different carols around in my head each day and night. I have seen Christmas in the actions of others because I was aware in consciousness of the goodness and grace certain actions represented. And, I found myself in a giving mood much more this year, both at Christmas and before.

One would think that with the economy on the rocks, unemployment high and everyone around me in a cautious mood that this would rub off on me, too, but just the opposite has occurred. I seem to be the optimistic one who everyone else turns to for encouragement, or just to be a listening ear or a strong shoulder. I am flattered to some degree, but also realize that my calling in life pretty much dictates this. After all, I am a minister first, and a jazz singer/songwriter second. Still, all the humbug gets to me, too, at times.

But this year is different. It is hard not to have a lively step at the thought of bells and ribbons and twinkling lights. It is like being transported to my childhood with total euphoric recall. I find that this year, in spite of the political and economic climate all around, I see joy and hope and the glimmer of a shining and lasting peaceful life for all of us, all over the world. Each morning this year I've hitched up reindeer

to a sleigh and circled the world. I've greeted each man, woman, and child with true cheer and hope for a beautiful season to come.

All the simplest things have meant so much- all awakened in my mind by the humming and singing of ancient words and melodies. And, I believe if we all do it, all year, we will all be awakened to the simple joys of our favorite things! Now, wouldn't that be lovely?...

## X. Don Durkee

**Don**, is a very unusual pianist and one of the finest interpreters of musical colors the performing arts industry has seen for along time.

He has great insights into mixing the expansive tones of the orchestra with modern jazz. His use of stings and instrumental colors create a veritable rainbow of sounds.

The characteristic manner, with which he sends the aesthetic message of pure joy to the listener, simply must be experienced personally to fully understand it.

In his own words, Don describes why he selected the material for the *Thanks for the Memories* CD. "I chose material for this CD which I felt would offer a harmonically rich sound, yet could still "cook" rhythmically. Some of these tunes are 60+ years old, but

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good music is immortal no matter when it was written. "Easy Livin"(featured on this CD) is not heard much, but it is one of the finest jazz classics. It is yours to enjoy. “

As Don continues to create listening pleasure for the avid jazz fan, he will be remembered for his great attention to detail and dedication to his craft.

*Jim Houck*

excellent, very enthusiastic, great! Very innovative, very good playing, great Bass playing, those solos are excellent! Each rendition is original and outstanding!

*John Moffett*

"As a music aficionado who has heard many great players over these many years, I consider you to be one of the best bass players that I have ever heard. No BS!"

*Frank Jamison*

## XI. Comments from Fans:

The Troy W. Campbell Quartet - "**Thanks for the Memories.**" Smooth - artistic - attractive interpretations. Such words come to mind when attempting to describe the Campbell Quartet disk produced by Jim Houck. Whether listening to one track -- or letting all nine of them play- out while engaged in other chores -- the melodies jolt memories back to life. In addition to Troy Campbell, the Quartet features Jim Houck on bass, Don Durkee on piano, and Robbie Liebrick on drums. Who Could Ask For Anything More? *Don Gruenburg*

That CD is really out of this world, just fantastic, Orpheus Jazz a Touch of Class, beautiful! Just previewed it a few minutes ago, and you get 10 out of 10. If you want to call me at 703-569-1756. I think when you perform at the Hilton you ought to get more people to buy your CD, its really worthwhile. I'm so glad that you told me about it and gave me the opportunity to have your CD. It's really

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## XII. Orpheus Jazz Live



### Orpheus Jazz Live... *At Tower Records*

**Orpheus Jazz** has been very fortunate to be chosen as **Jazz Artists in Residence for Tower Records in Tyson's corner.**

We recorded one of our best albums live at Tower Records. With a series of the best songs from the hot jazz library including Body and Soul, Just Friends, Autumn Leaves, and My Romance.

**Gregory Walczak** has a strong background in music, and often writes his thoughts about jazz for shoppers at Tower Records, while giving guidance and answering questions.

Here are some of Gregory's thoughts about Orpheus Jazz...

**"Orpheus Jazz** - this supremely versatile ensemble, brings all the Janus-faced sounds of jazz to a contemporary atmosphere. With a strong sense of lyricism and pervasive rhythm, this group leaves an indelible impression on listeners."

**Gregory Walczak**



Be sure to visit the **Tower Records Tyson's Corner** store at, **8389 Leesburg Pike , Vienna, VA (703) 893-6627.** Enjoy the great atmosphere created by the professional staff and listen to fine smooth jazz.



## XIII. Jazz Perspectives

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## Jazz

## Perspectives



### What is Jazz Perspectives?

**A** new TV show about the Local Virginia Jazz scene, featuring the finest in Jazz.

- Its about interviews with musicians and writers.
- Its about fine jazz music. Where to find it for great listening pleasure.
- Its about the public participating in Video and Television production.
- Its about expressing your views and being heard.

Jazz Perspectives is broadcast on Arlington Cable Television who just recently changed their name to Arlington Independent Media.

*Jazz Perspectives is produced by  
Jim Houck Productions, Inc.*

### XIV. Bob Meyers

**B**ob Meyers is one of the very finest musicians every to pick up a guitar. He plays chords and melody which are very original and all his own style. He is certainly on the same level with Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Les Paul.

Why is Bob such an pleasure to listen to? Well, basically its because of his deep love for the music. That love comes pouring out in ever increasing amounts. The enthusiasm and sheer joy with which he plays, is a never ending source of inspiration for the listener.

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Bob Meyers at the Ice House

Bob's artistry on solo work is something to behold, one of the great wonders of the world. Songs like A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square and Eric Clapton's If I Saw You in Heaven are amongst Bob's best solos. The sheer mastery of the technique for performing such songs shows the high standard of excellence Bob sets for himself and his band mates.

Bob's resume is a veritable Who's Who of the music industry. Equally at home in the finest jazz clubs of the world, or playing at a local neighborhood restaurant, Bob keeps playing his style his way.

Bob has started recording an album which is sure to be Jazz Classic. Keep an eye out for it, because you won't want to miss a single note.

**Jim Houck**

**The Ice House Staff create the perfect environment to hear fine jazz.**



760 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia  
703-437-4500

**From the desk of the President...**



Jim Houck Productions, Inc. is proud to announce the release of the new Christmas CD entitled **Take 5 for Christmas**. The fan base continues to grow. It has been my wonderful pleasure to work with the best in the music industry and to meet so many fine musicians and fans. Jim Houck Productions, Inc. services include: studio recording, on-site recording, commercials, and video and audio production.

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If you have an idea, I would love to hear it.



Orpheus Jazz Ensemble for sophisticated parties or casual gatherings! Whether it's Black Tie and Gown, or Casual Elegance, Orpheus Jazz Ensemble enhances your festive gathering and gets your guests in the mood with

“Swing Standards’ and Holiday tunes performed to perfection. Comprised of seasoned musicians and hand-selected for their professionalism and wide range of talent, this group intuitively knows hot to swing, rock and samba the night away! If you are looking for the highest quality, most versatile and upscale sound, you just found it ...consider your search completed...

*BassNote Records is an independent label producing new and established artists in the jazz genre.*

*BassNote*



*Records*

**Current available albums are:**

## **Fine JAZZ**

**XIX. Orpheus Jazz-A Touch of Class**

**XX. Orpheus Jazz Live (at Tower Records)**

**XXI. The Troy W. Campbell Quartet**

**XXII. The Best of Orpheus Jazz**

**XXIII. 'S Wonderful**

**XXIV. Take 5 for Christmas**

**These fine jazz CDs are available at:  
Foxes Music Fall Church, VA**

## **Original Folk Music**

**XXV. BLUE RIDGE KIND OF LOVE**

**with Jim Houck and Friends**

**After listening to it, I must confess that I like it a lot! Well sung, strong lyrics, beautiful sound, well produced.**

**For my show I selected all tracks, because they are all so beautiful, nice and heart-warming!!**

**Thanks again for this great gift of human music!! Ray,**

**Ray en Elly PIETERS-DREESENS  
LEOPOLDSBURG (BELGIUM)**

**RADIO MILO**

## **VIDEO**

I've been very proud to be a part of video production work now for a few years. My band, Jim Houck and Friends was part of a Christmas Production of *Swing Central*, a program of Arlington Cable Television, produced by Tommy Greco. The program features Christmas songs to a swing beat with

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Swing Dancers.

I was also lucky enough to play bass on the sound track of a wonderful movie production by **Bob Walters** called **CLUBS**. It is a movie set in the 1940's and utilizes swing music and swing dancing.

I am also producing a TV show called **Jazz Perspectives**, seen on **Arlington Cable TV**.

If you would like a copy of these high quality video productions, please let me know. GoodMusic@JimHouck.com

I'm looking forward to a banner year of expansion and fine music. **Jim Houck Productions** strives to bring you the very **finest audio and video production**.

I would love to hear from you with any requests or ideas you might have about producing video or music products.

## **Special Thanks:**

To: **John Clark** for his support and business advice.

To: **Joe Smith** for his technical advice and insights.

To: **Mark Richards** for his sense of humor and support.

Thank you all, Jim Houck

## **Bass Player's Corner...**

If you are a bass player and have something you would like to share with the world, or a

question about bass playing, or looking for bass lessons, please write to:

**BassPlayersCorner@JimHouck.com**

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**Jazz Fan of the Year**

**2009**

Judy Clark

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