

Music Magic News and Views



Music with a Touch of Class, Spring 2004
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Music Magic Magazine Spring 2004, Issue I

Jim Houck Productions, Inc.

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- 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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I. Reviews

“**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 **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

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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

"Once 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

"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 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 Le Canard

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featuring Reinhardt Liebig

132 Branch Road Vienna
703-281-0070 - 8:00
French cuisine and fine Jazz

703-437-4500

Live Jazz Friday and Saturday 8-12

Coffee House of Occoquan

202 Commerce St.
703-492-8976

Second Saturday of the month 12
noon - 1:30

Enjoy the 200 year anniversary of
Occoquan near the river.

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

The Ice House

760 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia

Appearing at the Ice House Monthly The Bob Meyers Trio



Featuring Juleen Stacey
with Woody Hume and Jim Houck

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Send your music reviews and comments to:
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THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA
PIANO LOUNGE ASSOCIATION



PROUDLY PRESENTS...
"DRY THURSDAY"



YES.. Thursday is turning into a Big Night in the world of Piano Lounges and now that the Rain has finally stopped.. (YEAH) Let's celebrate!

"DRY THURSDAY"



Now that doesn't mean your Glass should be empty it just nice to see my old friend SONNY DAZE back in town..

Here what's happening around town Thursdays..

PISTONES: Art Beverage will be tickling the keys and welcoming Vocalist to drop in and sing a song or 2..

He might even record the encounter...

Le Canard: The weekend starts early with the sounds of Peter Robinson at the piano Thursday, Friday and Saturday too..

Amerigo: Every Thursday is Singer Appreciation Night and they will once again be featuring a fantastic 3 course meal selection (3 choices for each course) for only \$18. Michael Terence as always provides lovely background music during dinner and Vocalist are welcome to partake after 9pm..

Squire Rockwells: Showtime at Squires is a frequent theme on Thursdays and tonight is no exception.

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Open mike and Dancing with the one and only Tom Saputo begins at 7:30 and at then at 9pm

BOB "Okie from Misokie"

will take center stage with Robert Sullivan on Guitar..

SO....
WHO NEEDS AN UMBRELLA???
IT'S....

"DRY THURSDAY"
GET OUT AND PARTY HARDY

AS A MATTER OF FACT LET'S GO ALL THE WAY AND CELEBRATE..

"DRY WEEKEND"

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PIANO PLAYER..
SEE YA AROUND THE OLD PIANO..
CARRIE OAKIE
(aka Mark Richards)

Hollywood - Rick Thompson

What does the word Hollywood mean? Slick? Glitzy? Professional? Honky Tonk? Big Time Show Productions? Jazz? Smooth Operator? Well, when Hollywood Rick Thompson is around, it means all of the above.



You can always count on Rick to give all he's got to every performance. Whether he is playing the Blues, smooth Jazz or a cool calm ballad in the style of the finest saxophone players the jazz community can muster.

He can lull the audience into a quiet and gentle mood while playing a Bossa Nova or a Cha Cha. Then, the next thing you know, here he comes full blast with the finest hard, driving Rock and Roll Elvis would be proud of.

Rick is currently working on a new CD. Keep an eye out for it. There is only one major element of the entertainment industry of utmost importance to the listener. That is, can the musician connect with the audience? You can always count on Hollywood to connect by coming on strong, straight up with No Holds Barred!
Jim Houck

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III. Meet the BAND

Orpheus Jazz - A Touch of Class

Troy W. Campbell - sax and flute,
Al Klopfer - drums, Reinhardt Liebig -
piano, Jim Houck - Bass



Photo by Reinhardt Liebig - 703-615-8383

"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

TROY W. CAMPBELL has enjoyed a very busy musical career all of his life in and around the Pittsburgh, Pa. area. Besides the local gigs, he has toured with various musicians such as the great trumpet player **Billy Butterfield**,

John Costa (pianist for the Mr. Rogers children's TV show), Slim Bryant and the Georgia Wildcats, The New Glen Miller Band, Vic Damone, The Jack Purcell Society Band just to name a few. Mr. Campbell has appeared on KDKA-TV for several years along with many radio stations in the Pittsburgh area. In 1968 and 1969. His Band the Troy Campbell Jazz Quartet with singing sensation, Jeannie Smith were written up in **Down Beat Magazine**. He also played for the world premier of the **Hello Dolly** movie as well as the most prestigious clubs and theaters in the east. Troy plays tenor and alto saxophones, flute, clarinet, piccolo and several stringed instruments. Mr. Campbell would like to dedicate this album to Marion his loving wife of 50 years and his father Troy W. Campbell Sr. for his inspiration and support in all his musical endeavors.

REINHARDT LIEBIG, born in Halle, Germany, came to the USA in 1958. Lived in the Cleveland, Ohio area until 1985. Back in 1965 his Aunt Sophie brought him an accordion from Germany and he started lessons and by 1971 taught himself piano too. His interest in the piano was supplemented with three years of classical piano studies under Dr. Fredrich Koch of the Cleveland Music Settlement. By 1972, Reinhardt started getting piano gigs in saloons and restaurants in the area. From 1985 to 1998, Reinhardt lived in Phoenix, Az playing in a variety of venues such as country clubs,

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restaurants, hotels and coffee houses. In 1998 he and his family moved to the Washington, D.C. area, where he now is playing regularly in many venues besides his performances with the Orpheus Jazz Quartet.

AL KLOPFER began studying the drums in 1962 at ten. While still in high school he played with the big bands of **Sammy Nestico and Bill Watrous, and with Earl 'Fatha' Hines. While attending the college of William & Mary he played with the big bands of Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson.** After graduating in 1974 he spent several years in and around the Washington-Atlanta-Atlantic City corridor working with many groups and artists, which have included **Kenny Burrell, Diana Krall, Michael Franks, Blood Sweat & Tears and Frank Sinatra, Jr.** In addition, he recorded with alto saxophonist **Richie Cole** and his vocalist **Eddie Jefferson.** He is also the author of two instruction books on drumming published by the Rogers Drum Co.

"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

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, Concert Band and many others.**

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

Jazz

Perspectives



JIM HOUCK, originally from Baltimore,

The Troy W. Campbell Quartet

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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 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*

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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 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

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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 in Georgetown 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 Robbins and Ralph 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 vibraphone type sound. Do you have a special place you are going to be using that?*

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 Lionel 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.



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IV. Cover Model

Eleanor Houck

Eleanor is attending the University of Arkansas and is modeling. She is the *cover model for Music Magic Magazine*, a new magazine dedicated to fine quality music.

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
Jim Houck Productions, Inc.
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V. Tribute to Easy Smith



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.



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

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and for performing the very best selections, was unequalled!

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 Vinicguerra

Tom Vinicguerra 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 practioners 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

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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 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.



Jazz Fans of the Month
May 2004



Perry Melvin and Jennifer



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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 age 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



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Jim Houck

VIII. Al Klopfer

Al Klopfer has taken upon himself one of the most difficult of all jobs in the music business. That is, to be the **Keeper of Time**.



As in any area of endeavor, time is of utmost importance. The group is held together by how well it thinks as one tight rhythm machine. Al Klopfer is one of the few who can do that with great pride!

His melodic approach to phrasing and speaking through his drums, comes forward with extreme clarity. Al's mastery of all aspects of percussion is well respected throughout the music industry. His constant and demanding performance schedule is a tribute to his every improving skills.

Because of the years Al spent playing with the masters of the Big Band Era like **Sammy Nestico and Bill Watrous, and with Earl 'Fatha' Hines, Woody Herman and Maynard Ferguson**, I know I count on Al to deliver a top performance every time, with excellent communication and outstanding inspiration. He is a real crowd pleaser!

IX. Adrien Re



Adrien is one of the very few reeds players who can demonstrate complete technical mastery with the ease and finesse of a dove in flight.

Whether he is playing soulful blues or smooth jazz, the resounding success of his professional characteristic sound is constantly present. Certainly this is the quality Mel Torme' experienced when Adrien toured with him.

In the package of musician abilities that come with Adrien, is an outstanding and innate sense for original arranging. Top quality arrangers are few and far between.

Somehow, he manages his very hectic schedule of teaching and performing and still finds the time for a kind word of encouragement to anyone who would venture down the road to jazz performance excellence.

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The list of artists Adrien has worked with include Spyro Gyra, Neville Brothers, Rosemary Clooney, Mel Torme', Carol Burnette, Burt Bacharach, The Temptations, Marshall Royal, Milt Hinton and many more...

Adrien is certainly a **leader of the pack**, and will set the pace for the music industry for years to come.

Jim Houck

X. Robbie Liebrick

Robbie is a fine, refined musician with many years of experience recording and performing with the best the music industry has to offer.

One major characteristic that sets him apart from other drummers is his ever-positive attitude about music. That attitude comes through clean and clear with every stoke of the drum stick.

Robbie, somehow, finds a way to mix perfect time with complex and error-free execution of the most difficult percussion tasks. He constantly demonstrates the best ideas of time keeping with harmonic tones and phrasing only a professional opera singer would attempt.

His history of performing with the top cream of the music industry will continue on for a long time. Aspiring drummers would be well served to use him as a role model.

Jim Houck

XI. 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 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

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XII. 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 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



Heard your promo CD playing at Tower Records, Tysons Corner, and was knocked out by the powerful taste and musicianship of all players, and the great tunes selected. Clerk told me it's not for sale (groan!) but did have A Touch of Class CD, which I'm playing now. Every bit as good, not a dull stretch in it. Nice recording & production too. Now, about releasing the cuts on the promo as a commercial CD....?

Bill Vindal (wvindal@cox.net)



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XIII. 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.



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XIV. Jazz Perspectives

Jazz



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.
- It's about fine jazz music. Where to find it for great listening pleasure.
- It's about the public participating in Video and Television production.
- It's about expressing your views and being heard.

Jazz Perspectives is broadcast on **Arlington Cable Television Channel 33**, who just recently changed their name to **Arlington Independent Media**.

Tune in May 1, 2004 at 8:30pm

Or, you can order a copy of the show from:

JazzPerspectives@jimhouck.com

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

Jon Combs is one of the most fascinating musicians of our times. Equally at home playing piano, bass, sousaphone, cornet, guitar or singing, he exemplifies the consummate musician.



Jon Combs performing at Holy Cross

The reason he is always smiling is that he can find great joy in teaching or performing. Whether he is teaching children to play guitar or belting out an Elvis Presley classic, he is producing the essence of musical excellence.

Keep an eye out for a new DVD/CD combination in the works, as Jon continues to astonish the musical world with the finest in musical performance.

Jim Houck



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XV. Bob Meyers

Bob 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 a pleasure to listen to? Well, basically it's 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.



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 Bob Meyers Trio
featuring Juleen Stacey
with Woody Hume and Jim Houck
at the Ice House in Herndon, Virginia

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Woody Hume has honed his jazz skills by performing with Jazz Legend Easy Smith for over 20 years.

Perhaps his best trait is versatility. Whether he is playing swing, bossa nova, rock and roll or a ballad, Woody's many years of experience comes shining through.



Steady as a rock, he can be counted on to continue the many years of excellence he has behind him.

Hat's off to Woody and his drums, exhibiting excellence in Jazz Performance.

Jim Houck

Juleen Stacey has a voice like an angel! Clear as a bell and versatile. Equally at home with

opera or jazz, she exhibits excellence and high standards of performance.

Her original arrangement of Summertime is a phenomenon the audience must hear to believe. Few singers through history have her range and versatility. She turns on the charm when singing a ballad, and mesmerizes the audience.



Together with Bob Meyers, the combination of excellent vocals and guitar are unbeatable!

Jim Houck

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



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

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XV. **BIG Bands**

Ragtime, originating in the late 1800's, is probably the earliest music style to contribute to jazz development. Musicians of that era like Scott Joplin, and Artie Matthews were contributors to the progression of music style. Blues had its influence around the turn of the century and still plays a part in today's music.

The **Dixieland** style of music, also known as Traditional Jazz, showed up in the early 1920's and made a major impact on the music scene. Musicians like Bix Beiderbecke and Louis Armstrong were major contributors to the evolution of music.

Also from the 1920's came the beginnings of the **Big Band**. Usually groups of 10 or more musicians would perform songs with original solos. Band leaders such as **Benny Goodman** and **Duke Ellington** set a new tradition and standard.

The big band prime era was through the 1930's and 40's. Bandleaders **Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, and singers Frank Sinatra and Russ Carlyle** were all contributors to this great musical evolution. Their influence on music in general is still with us today. Their records are still sold and enjoyed by jazz fans the world over.

The big band tradition is still carried on today by dedicated musicians like **Harry Connick Jr. and Maynard Ferguson**. Locally in the Virginia area there are some Big Bands performing, like the **St. Thom Cats and the Loudoun Jazz Ensemble**.



Easy Smith at the Ice House

Jazz legend Easy Smith, who toured with the Dorsey Brothers during the big band era, has also been performing with a local big band called the St. Thom Cats.

Jim Houck

During the time period Easy Smith was director of the St. Thom Cats, the band was constantly busy and in demand. Easy Smith passed away April 14, 2003. His last appearance with the St Thom Cats was in March 2003. The St Thom Cats will continue playing swing in the tradition and memory of Easy Smith. **The St. Thom Cats Big Band is Sponsored by Manassas/St Thomas United Methodist**

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Church 8899 Sudley Road Manassas, Va
20110 (703) 368-5161.

big band music, from the '40s through today in the style and excellence expected of such an organization.



John Clark sings with the St. Thom Cats

The Loudoun Jazz Ensemble (LJE) was formed in January of 1997 by Dick Schroeder (then of Sterling, VA) and is a performing organization of the Loudoun Community Band, Inc.

The purpose of the LJE is twofold: to provide a group in which area musicians who have a strong interest in "Big Band" jazz can rehearse on a regular basis; and to bring the results of their efforts to the people of Loudoun County and the surrounding areas. The LJE is committed to performing a wide variety of the



Loudoun Jazz Ensemble at Lovettsville

The **Loudoun Jazz Ensemble** is now under the direction of John Jensen, the distinguished former member of the Commodores.

Hat's off to the many dedicated musicians and fans who carry on the **Big Band Tradition**.



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Doc Dikeman's Big Band has been a long time favorite of the Washington D.C. area. Doc's dedication to excellent music is apparent in every aspect of the overall music production.



The selection of music ranges from the finest Broadway show songs to Frank Sinatra style productions and beyond.

Highlights of Doc's career include shows at **Wolf Trap Performing Arts, The Kennedy Center, and Constitution Hall** with stars of the entertainment industry like **Sarah Vaughn and Bette Midler**. Also, television appearances on Public Broadcasting and CBS.

Jim Houck Productions, Inc. salutes Doc Dikeman's distinguished career.

Visit the Jim Houck Productions, Inc. website for information on local bands, big bands, jam sessions and concerts.

www.JimHouck.com

Say hello and sign our friendly guest book.

Chat in the Hot Smooth Jazz chat room.

Sign up on the Jazz Fan mailing list, and your name is entering into a **contest to win a free CD.**



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From the desk of the President...



Jim Houck Productions, Inc. started about a year ago, and is expanding and growing. 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. If you have an idea, I would love to hear it.

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

BassNote



Records

Current available albums are:

Fine JAZZ

- I. Orpheus Jazz-A Touch of Class
- II. Orpheus Jazz Live (at Tower Records)
- III. The Troy W. Campbell Quartet
- IV. The Best of Orpheus Jazz

These fine jazz CDs are available at:

Tower Records Tyson's Corner

8389 Leesburg Pike , Vienna, VA (703) 893-6627

Original Folk Music

- I. **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.

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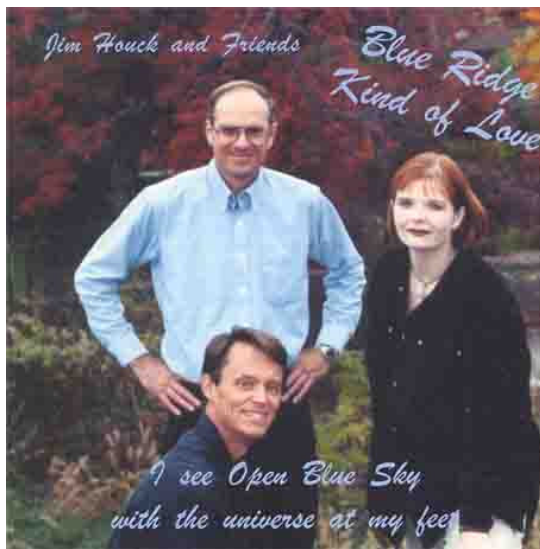
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For my show I selected all tracks, because they are all so beautiful, nice and heart-warming!!

Thanks again for this great gift of human music!! Ray,
Ray en Elly PIETERS-DREESENS
LEOPOLDSBURG (BELGIUM)
RADIO MILO



Musicians Celebrate

'Blue Ridge Kind of Love'

Here is an excerpt from an article written by Alice S. Ross for the Connection Newspaper.

“Combining his love of music with an appreciation of nature, Sterling composer Jim Houck pays homage to Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley in a just released CD, “Blue Ridge Kind of Love. “Recorded and engineered locally at Sterling Productions, Ltd, the folk-light rock

collection features twelve original songs performed by Jim Houck and Friends.”

“According to Houck, one composition took shape during a walk along the Appalachian Trail. “As I watched two eagles soar overhead, I was struck by the quiet and serenity of that beautiful valley.” he said. The experience evolved into the lyrics and tune of “Coming Home Shenandoah.”

“BLUE RIDGE KIND OF LOVE

...like a breath of

fresh air -- a wonderful mix of upbeat, happy songs. From the start, the title cut will get your toes tapping.

It is followed by songs with just the right mix of tempos, all supported by excellent instrumentation and vocals.

The percussion playing by John Melcher and keyboarding by Jim Houck are stellar.

Jim's "Friends" lend great support throughout. Emma McLoughlin's vocals on "My Irish Home" are destined to become a classic. It will

appeal to anyone wistfully thinking of their homeland, be it near or far away.

Our top three favorites are: Blue Ridge Kind of Love,

Loving Smiles and My Irish Home.

Give Blue Ridge Kind of Love a listen.

You'll find yourself smiling and humming the tunes, long after the music has ended.”

Sandy and Dave Caouette,
Stringfellow's Music Shop

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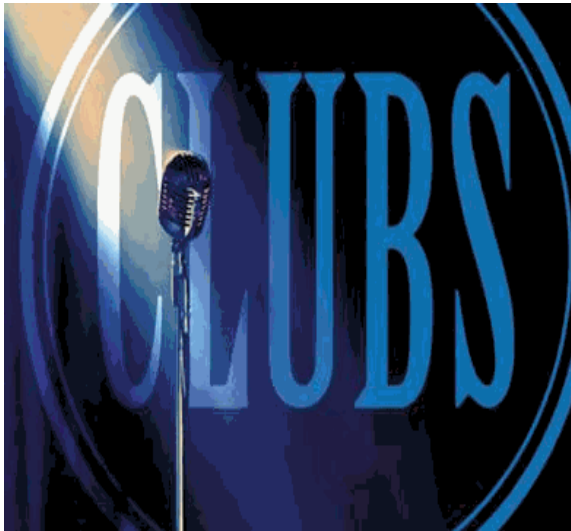
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VIDEO

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 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 of copy of these high quality

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video productions, please let me know.
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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: **Bill Hoeft** for technical advice and video editing

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

Thank you all, Jim Houck



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Bass Player's Corner...

Jim Houck Productions, Inc.

The latest news in Bass Player's Corner is that Mark Simpson is a father again! That's right, a father for the third time.



Lucas Paolo Simpson Born April, 4th 2004

And so, our bass playing family grows and grows.

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:

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The
Jim Houck
Swing Dance Orchestra
including some members of
Orpheus Jazz



will be appearing at
Colvin Run

May 29th from 9-12

**10201 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, VA
703-430-6557**

**Dance the night away
to fine classic jazz...**

Dance lessons available



*Waltz, Tango, Fox Trot, Bossa Nova,
Swing, Two Step, Ballads, Shuffle,
Jump, Cha Cha, Polka, Meringue*



**Sponsored by
The Colvin Run Citizen's Association**

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Walter O. Harrison, President



In Concert

at

Bangkok Blues

Sunday, June 20, 2004

7-10 pm

Featuring:

Reinhardt Liebig
Piano

Jim Houck
Acoustic and Electric Bass

Al Klopfer
Drums

REINHARDT LIEBIG, born in Halle, Germany, came to the USA in 1958. Lived in the Cleveland, Ohio area until 1985. Back in 1965 his Aunt Sophie brought him an accordian from Germany and he started lessons and by 1971 taught himself piano too. His interest in the piano was supplemented with three years of classical piano studies under Dr. Fredrich Koch of the Cleveland Music Settlement. By 1972, Reinhardt started getting piano gigs in saloons and restaurants in the area. From 1985 to 1998, Reinhardt lived in Phoenix, Az playing in a variety of venues such as country clubs, restaurants, hotels and coffee houses.

AL KLOPFER began studying the drums in 1962 at ten. While still in high school he played with the big bands of **Sammy Nestico** and **Bill Watrous**, and with **Earl 'Fatha' Hines**. While attending the college of **William & Mary** he played with the big bands of **Woody Herman** and **Maynard Ferguson**. After graduating in 1974 he spent several years in and around the Washington-Atlanta-Atlantic City corridor working with many groups and artists, which have included **Kenny Burrell**, **Diana Krall**, **Michael Franks**, and **Frank Sinatra, Jr.**

JIM HOUCK, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Jim Houck has been a bass player from an early age and began performing while

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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, Concert Band** and many others.

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Music Magic News and Views



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Music Note:

Copies of the wedding reception CD for Mary Anne Renee and Louis M. Clark are now available.

Jazz Fan of the Month

April 2004

Madeleine Ames



Jazz For Kids

Madeliene Ames is setting the trend for kids today! At age two and a half, she can say "Cool Jazz Music."

If you have news and views for Jazz for Kids, write to:

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