

Worlds Beyond – Schnyder / Drew, jr. / Taylor Trio

Daniel Schnyder, saxophones, Kenny Drew, jr., piano, David Taylor, bass trombone

The music of the **Daniel Schnyder & Kenny Drew jr. Quartet** features jazz standards and original compositions. The quartet is known for its virtuosity and wide dynamic range. Some of the original compositions by Daniel Schnyder also use technics not so familiar in Jazz crossing over into the world of classical chamber music. The program sounds very fresh and new. At the same time it is deeply rooted in the tradition of jazz.



Daniel Schnyder is known as a composer/performer with a dynamic reputation in both jazz and classical fields. He recorded over ten CDs of his own music for Enja Records, Koch Jazz, CCnc, Universal, Arabesque and Red Records. As a performer Daniel toured and recorded with many well known classical musicians, world music artists and jazz artists.

Daniel was born 1961 in Zurich, Switzerland and lives in New York City. His orchestral works and his chamber music compositions have been performed and recorded all over the world.

In the jazz field he collaborated with Marvin Smitty Smith, Victor Lewis, Ronnie Burrage, Fred Hirshfield, Michael Formanek, Andy Mc

Kee, Michael Phillip Mossman, Lew Soloff, Ray Anderson, David Taylor, Lee Konitz, Mark Feldman, Paquito D'Rivera, Abdullah Ibrahim, Simon Shaheen, Ted Rosenthal, Tomas Chapin, John Clarke, George Grunz, Franco Ambrosetti, Jamey Haddad and many others.

As an arranger/composer he produced albums for jazz artists Abdullah Ibrahim ("African Suite"), Lee Konitz ("Tribute to Billie Holiday") and Paquito D'Rivera ("Habanera", Enja Records). He also worked with Simon Shaheen, Peter Herbert, Burhan Oecal, Jing Jang, Marcel Kalife and Jamey Haddad on a variety of projects, merging Arab music and Chinese music elements with jazz and classical music. The Album "Absolution" (Enja Nova) featuring Daniel Schnyder's Trombone Concerto received a Grammy nomination for "Best Classical Small Ensemble Recording" in 2002.

Among his credits as a composer are commissions to write compositions for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in New York, the Tonkuenstler Orchestra in Vienna, the Radio Symphony Orchestra in Berlin, The Norrlands Operan in Sweden, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Vienna Art Orchestra, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich (4th Symphony, commissioned by David Zinman), the Opera of Bern ("Tempest" by Shakespeare), the NDR Orchestra in Hannover, the NDR Big Band in Germany, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the New York based new music group "Absolute Ensemble" under the direction of Kristjan Jaervi (Bass Trombone Concerto for David Taylor) and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra among many others.

Daniel toured Europe and Australia with his trio, featuring David Taylor and Kenny Drew jr., playing music of Gershwin, Bach, Vivaldi, Wagner and Ellington in addition to his own new compositions bridging the worlds of classical music and jazz.

He frequently performs with his special chamber music project for saxophone and string quartet, combining composition and improvisation, jazz and traditional chamber music. His third string quartet was commissioned by the Carmina Quartet.

In 1997 Schnyder was commissioned to write the opening orchestral piece for the official inauguration of the renovated concert hall of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Andreas Delfs, who also premiered his Piano Concerto and his 1st Symphony. Subsequently the orchestra commissioned Schnyder to write "The Revelation of St. John", a large scale work for chorus, symphonic forces, organ and soloists that was premiered with great success in February 2001 and had its European premiere in Barcelona in 2005 at the Liceu.

Daniel Schnyder won the first prize at the 1996 International Trumpet Guild's Composition Contest. His trumpet sonata was selected as one of the official pieces for the Concours Maurice André pour Trompette 2003 (Paris). He won also numerous awards for his chamber music by the International Flute Association, the International Clarinet Association, the City of Zurich, Pro Helvetia, the National Art Council of Switzerland, the American Symphony League and Meet the Composer. He is a composer with Universal Edition's "Spectrum Series" and the composer in residence with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. His stay with the MSO was made possible by a grant from Meet The Composer and the American Symphony League.

"I highly recommend this rare mix of high art and high spirits." Cadence, USA

"Rich in dynamics, Schnyder's music is potent mood- and image-inducing. It is a complete musical statement, the musical equivalent of the quest myth in Western literature." Gene Kalbacher, Hot House Jazz Journal, New York

David Taylor appeared with the New York Philharmonic under Pierre Boulez and the American Symphony under Stokowski, Ansermet and Khachaturian. He also played with Steve Reich, the Ensemble for New and Newer Music and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

He recorded and toured with Duke Ellington, Gil Evans, Bob Mintzer, Joe Henderson, the Thad Jones Mel Lewis Big Band, George Russell and popular artists like Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin and the Rolling Stones.

He is the first bass trombonist to be given the Most Valuable Player award by the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In 2002 he was featured on five recordings nominated for a Grammy Award.

"...left every brass player in the packed house shaking his head in disbelief." Chicago Tribune

"Mr Taylor is a terrific player..." New York Times

Kenny Drew, Jr. started playing the piano at the age of four. Inspired by the work of his father, the great jazz pianist Kenny Drew, he soon branched out into the area of jazz music.

As a leader Kenny has recorded 20 albums so far, featuring jazz musicians like Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Al Foster, George Mraz, Buster Williams, Terence Blanchard and Wallace Roney. He also worked as a sideman with Stanley Turrentine, Slide Hampton and the Jazz Masters, Stanley Jordan, Michael Mossman, Steve Grossman, Frank Morgan, the Mingus Big Band and many others.

He has a solid reputation as a performer of classical music and was invited in 1996 to the Barossa Chamber Music Festival to play the Bach Concertos and new classical music by African-American composers. Kenny Drew Jr. was the winner of the 1990 Great American Jazz Piano Competition.

"Welcome to your dad's league..." Jazziz

"Kenny Drew is the perfect pianist..." New York Times

“His abundance of technique and drive, his sensitive keyboard arranging and his imaginative use of the instrument’s colors exhibit his salient musical virtues...” Chicago Reader

For more information on Daniel Schnyder and his music please visit: www.danielschnyder.com

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Discography:

“Words Within Music”, Enja Records 9369/2

“Weill meets Jazz / The Berlin–New York Project”, Koch Jazz Records 3–6969–2

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