



NEWS & INFO

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DRUMMER DAN BRUBECK HONORS HIS PARENTS' MUSIC
(& DEBUTS ON CD AS A LEADER)
WITH "CELEBRATING THE MUSIC AND LYRICS
OF DAVE & IOLA BRUBECK,"
TO BE RELEASED BY BLUE FOREST RECORDS
APRIL 28

2-CD SET WAS RECORDED AUGUST 2013
LIVE AT THE CELLAR, VANCOUVER, BC
WITH BRUBECK'S QUARTET:
SAXOPHONIST STEVE KALDESTAD,
PIANIST TONY FOSTER, & BASSIST/VOCALIST ADAM THOMAS

On his brilliantly realized new album *Celebrating the Music and Lyrics of Dave & Iola Brubeck*, drummer **Dan Brubeck** introduces his parents' remarkable and surprisingly little-known songbook. The second youngest of **Dave and Iola Brubeck's** six children, Dan has an extensive history of performing and recording alongside his famous pianist father **Dave Brubeck** and had long wanted to explore some of the songs and textual settings that his parents collaborated on over the years. The 2-CD set, which happens to be Dan's recording debut as a leader, will be released by Blue Forest Records on April 28.

"Some of these songs could be classified as 'standards,'" he notes, "but most people have never heard them with Iola's lyrics. Many of these songs have rarely been heard at all."

"**In Your Sweet Way**" is the track that opens the album, and as with many of the pieces that follow, Iola wrote the lyrics specifically for a jazz legend (Carmen McRae). Iola, who died last year at the age of 90, contributed incisive insider commentary about the songs for the album's liner notes. Dave Brubeck passed in 2012 at the age of 91.

The opportunity to pursue the project arose unexpectedly with some of the finest jazz players in the Vancouver, BC area, including saxophonist **Steve Kaldestad**, pianist **Tony Foster**, and bassist/vocalist **Adam Thomas**. "These are the guys who had good chemistry and we stuck together," says Brubeck, 59, a longtime resident of British Columbia.

Brubeck made the serendipitous discovery that his bassist was the perfect vocalist for this material. “He was completely in tune,” Dan says of hearing Thomas’s singing for the first time, “phrasing beautifully with a soulful sweetness, all while swinging his ass off on bass. When the quartet had a gig we just set up mics in the Cellar, which is tiny and intimate. I was just amazed when I listened back to what we got.”

Thomas’s most impressive feat is the easygoing authority he brings to interpreting songs the Brubecks created with Louis Armstrong in mind. He swings joyfully on “**Since Love Had Its Way**,” and wrings every wistful drop from the masterpiece “**Summer Song**,” an intoxicating draught of song that has unaccountably remained uncovered until this year (both songs were introduced by Satchmo in the Brubecks’ politically astute jazz musical *The Real Ambassadors*). Adding to the poignancy of “**Summer Song**” is the fact that the chorus serves as Dave and Iola’s epitaph.

“I don’t think anyone’s done it besides Louis until now,” Dan says. “For them that song had a lot of special meaning. I think Carmen was supposed to sing it but Louis heard it and that was that.”

The quartet doesn’t avoid the best-known numbers, offering memorable versions of the oft-interpreted “**Blue Rondo a la Turk**” and Paul Desmond and Iola Brubeck’s enduring hit “**Take Five**.” But digging deep into the catalog yields one unexpected gem after another. Thomas hits just the right plaintive tone on the minor blues “**Lord, Lord**,” a piece from Brubeck’s suite *The Gates of Justice*. And “**Strange Meadowlark**” is another superlative piece that, like “**Summer Song**,” could easily become a standard (it’s got a good start with recordings by Carmen McRae, Frederica von Stade, and Hilary Cole).

Born in Oakland on May 4, 1955, **Dan Brubeck** was a highly energetic child who found his calling at the trap set. Mentored by two consummate polyrhythmic masters, Joe Morello and Alan Dawson (at the Berklee College of Music), he was working professionally before he finished his teens. Over the years Dan was featured on nearly a dozen albums with his father, and toured widely with the Dave Brubeck Quartet, including many appearances with the world’s leading orchestras. He’s been an integral part of the various Brubeck bands, including the Darius Brubeck Ensemble, Two Generations of Brubeck, and the New Brubeck Quartet. He’s toured internationally and recorded three widely played albums with his electric jazz group, The Dolphins, and co-led the Brubeck LaVerne Trio with his brother Chris and pianist Andy LaVerne. Dan has also toured with acts ranging from The Band and David Benoit to Gerry Mulligan and Paul Desmond, and has recorded with jazz guitar legend Larry Coryell, singer/songwriter Livingston Taylor, jazz/pop singer Michael Franks, and pioneering blues guitarist Roy Buchanan.

Dan continues to perform and record with his siblings—Chris Brubeck, a bassist, trombonist, and noted composer, in the Brubeck Brothers Quartet, and pianist/composer Darius Brubeck in Brubecks Play Brubeck—when he’s not playing with his Vancouver band.

The **Dan Brubeck Quartet** will be appearing at the following venues, with additional dates in the works: **8/1** Kaslo (BC) Jazz Festival, 7pm; **8/15** The Red Deer Symphony Orchestra’s Evening of Jazz at The Lake, Red Deer, Alberta; **9/18** Jazz n Caz, Cazenovia (NY) College Jazz Festival; **9/19** Universal Preservation Hall, Saratoga Springs, NY; **9/20** Weir Farm, Wilton, CT. •

www.danbrubeck.com