



TRADITIONAL JAZZ ALBUM OF THE YEAR

BRAD TURNER QUARTET

Small Wonder

RC: Maximum*EMI



Called "one of the top trumpeters in jazz today," by Downbeat magazine in 2007, this latest album is the Brad Turner Quartet's fifth. *Small Wonder* is a return to the recording studio environment, where past recordings have reflected the more improvisational group concept for which the Quartet has become known. The album revisits the structured realm of specifically composed pieces by Turner with each band member in mind.

CHRIS DONNELLY

Solo

RC: Alma*Universal



There's a fairytale quality about the recording debut of pianist extraordinaire Chris Donnelly. One of his demo CDs reached Canadian jazz music industry's Peter Cardinali in December 2007, and by March of 2008 Cardinali had decided that an Alma release was an absolute must. Donnelly is an artist born of unbridled talent, blessed with an unsurpassed technique, a gift for telling stories and making music that will stick in the memory.

DON THOMPSON QUARTET

For Kenny Wheeler

RC: Sackville Records



Born in Powell River, BC, world class musician, composer and educator Donald Thompson is equally at home on vibes, piano, bass and drums, and is also a sound engineer with his own studio. Magical, ethereal and musical, are all words that come to mind when listening to Don Thompson Quartet's album, *For Kenny Wheeler*. Aside from the bebop-style opening tune "Birdbath," all of Thompson's wonderful compositions showcase his musical admiration for trumpeter and flugelhorn master Kenny Wheeler. Many of these songs are extremely difficult musically, but the Quartet makes it seem easy.

JOHN STETCH

TV Trio

RC: Brux Records



Born in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1966, pianist John Stetch was exposed to the sounds of jazz at an early age. While earning his Bachelor of Music degree in Montreal, Stetch began touring and recording across Canada with his quartet, trio or alone, and soon had four JUNO Award nominations. Stetch is one of a handful of jazz artists to have recorded a solo piano trilogy, and for this he received unanimous praise. Stetch currently lives in Ithaca, NY. He is affiliated with Cornell University and has released a new trio CD, *TV Trio*, which consists entirely of TV themes.

OLIVER JONES

Second Time Around

RC: Justin Time*Fusion III



Pianist/composer/arrange Oliver Jones is one of Canada's finest musicians. His career also intertwines with the proud history of jazz in his native Montreal, the thriving city that in its heyday also produced the late Oscar Peterson, his lifelong friend and continuing inspiration. Jones was born in Saint Henri, several blocks from Peterson, and the youngster would sit on the Peterson porch, listening to the older boy practice. Jones was performing publicly at age five, and by the time he had his first nightclub appearance, he was nine. Oliver Jones' six-decade musical career has been rich and varied. He has released more than 17 albums since 1982. *Second Time Around* follows 2006's *One More Time*.

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