

LAURENCE HOBGOOD: QUOTES



Laurence Hobgood, pretty much the king of modern Songbook interpretation.

JAZZIZ MAGAZINE

Piano virtuoso.

STEPHEN HOLDEN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Perpetual inventiveness.

HOWARD REICH, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Glorious joie de vivre.

MICHAEL J. WEST
THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the finest pianists out there. Period.

JAZZ TIMES

One of the best pianists of his generation.

MOJO MAGAZINE (UK) 4-star review

Power without noise, energy without haste, drama without overstatement.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Precise musical vision.

THE AGE (AUSTRALIA)

Electrifying.

HOWARD REICH, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Hobgood has made a major statement.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Welcome to a new piano star.

THE INDEPENDENT (UK)

One of the true joys of music journalism is receiving that unexpected package, containing an artist I was unfamiliar with that blows my mind. Enter Laurence Hobgood.

THE HUFFINGTON POST

There's a wonderful, relaxed sympathy between Hobgood and Haden — When you're this good you don't have to shout about it.

JAZZWISE (UK)

The pairing of Hobgood and Haden is an inspired one. The two have a synergy that is oak-organic and diamond-hard.

ALLABOUTJAZZ.COM

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PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Hobgood... has crafted deeply considered arrangements, no two alike, each providing multiple twists and turns... The caliber and finesse of his writing were instantly apparent... In all of this music, Hobgood merged accessibility and sophistication, intertwining jazz, pop and classical idioms. The packed house at the Green Mill embraced the endeavor, judging by the crescendo of ovations it received.

HOWARD REICH, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (*t e s s e t e r r a*)

Perhaps the most impressive part of the evening was the connection and sense of play that Rhiannon and Hobgood displayed and embodied every second of the night...The natural give and take between these two is palpable.

NATE HALL, PICTURE THIS POST (Hobgood & Rhiannon at Winters Jazz)

These brilliant musicians lifted the performance out of the realm of cabaret and into jazz . . . Yes, something momentous is indeed coming.

STEPHEN HOLDEN, NEW YORK TIMES (Shelter From The Storm CD release)

Hobgood obviously embraced his leadership role, playfully interacting with the audience and providing insight between each composition. Whatever he ends up doing next with his pen and piano, it will no doubt be swinging. And he'll have plenty of fans anxiously awaiting to hear his future projects.

DOWNBEAT (On Laurence Hobgood quintet w/ Ernie Watts, sax and Marquis Hill, trumpet)

The most important takeaway from this occasion, though, was not so much the persuasiveness of Hobgood's pianism or the musicality of his arrangements, which are well-known, but the alacrity of this trio. Just as Honor Thy Fathers can be considered Hobgood's strongest recording to date, this band may provide his best musical forum yet, opening a major new chapter in his career.

HOWARD REICH, CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Laurence Hobgood Trio)

RECORDINGS

t e s s e t e r r a (Ubuntu, 2019)

*Laurence Hobgood's new album is grounded in a deep and rich musicality that rewards frequent and multiple listenings like nothing I've heard in decades. It is at different times surprising, thought-provoking, nuanced, and always exquisite. What do Debussy, Ravel, Miles Davis and Johnny Cash have in common? They were all superb crafters of melody, harmony and rhythm who decided, as Hobgood does here, to explore texture-driven music, elevating timbre and orchestration to equal standing with their better known musical accomplices. Hobgood is continually pulling rabbits out of hats, getting me to rethink and re-feel songs I've heard thousands of times, shining a light on hidden structure and interplays I had never noticed before. Anyone who can sneak in a few bars of "I've Found a New Baby" has got me hooked. From meter shifts to harmonic innovation and textural elegance, *t e s s e t e r r a* should be on every station and streaming services playlists for years to come.*

Dr. Daniel J. Levitin, Musicologist, Producer, and author of *This Is Your Brain on Music*

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Honor Thy Fathers (Circumstantial, 2016)

Pianist Hobgood pays homage to his "musical fathers" — including Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans and Nat King Cole — and in so doing achieves some of the finest playing of an already distinguished career. The sheer beauty of Hobgood's tone and touch are worth savoring, and there's no missing the poetry of his "Sanctuary" (a salute to his father), the joyousness of his approach to rhythm in "Straighten Up and Fly Right" (a tribute to Cole) and the impressionistic canvas of his "The Waltz" (suggesting Evans).

Joined by bassist John Patitucci and drummer Kendrick Scott, Hobgood never has sounded better. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 10 BEST CDS 2016**

It's easy to hear similarities between Laurence Hobgood's piano and that of Brad Mehldau . . . The album is a sublime statement—perhaps the first of 2016. **MICHAEL J. WEST, JAZZTIMES**

Overall the ambiance is warm, dark and reflective, which is not to discount the Hobgood's strategically big, broad voicings, streaming glissandi and consistently perfect articulation. **HOWARD MANDEL, DOWNBEAT**



Christmas (Circumstantial, 2013):

For most of this beautifully recorded album, he's alone at the piano, unspooling solemn reveries after the example of his north star, Keith Jarrett. **NATE CHINEN, NEW YORK TIMES**

Can overplayed holiday repertoire be transformed into art? It can when Hobgood is at work, the pianist turning in one of the most appealing recordings of an already distinguished career with 'Christmas.'

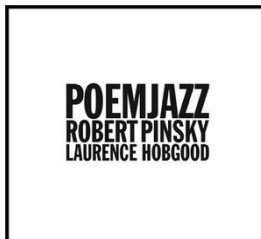
Listeners can savor the beauty of his touch, the subtlety of his voicings, the lushness of his harmonies and the ingenuity of his improvisations. **HOWARD REICH, CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Changes (Arianna Neikrug, Concord, 2018)

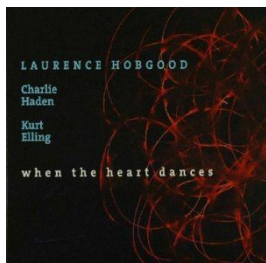
Between them [Hobgood & Neikrug] they virtually rewrote the rulebook for jazz singing and raised technique to virtuoso level.

THE GUARDIAN



PoemJazz (Circumstantial, 2012)

Tremendous collaboration... Pinsky and Hobgood establish a wholly simpatico artistic partnership. **JAZZTIMES**



When The Heart Dances (Naim, 2007, duo with bassist Charlie Haden):

The beauty of When The Heart Dances derives from the synchronicity of temperaments achieved by Laurence Hobgood and Charlie Haden.

DOWNBEAT BEST CDS OF THE 2000s

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Alert listeners have known for years that Kurt Elling's long-time accompanist- collaborator Hobgood is one of the best pianists of his generation. He's joined here by bass legend Charlie Haden on a sumptuous, elegiac set of duets, beautifully played.

MOJO MAGAZINE 4 star review

MUSICIANS / COLLABORATORS

Laurence is the type of musician that when you hear him you not only marvel at his incredible storytelling abilities through his improvisation, nor are you just amazed by his brilliant arrangements and incredible musical choices but you are also inspired to be better at your own craft. He makes you fall in love with music over & over again.

ALICIA OLATUJA, JAZZ VOCALIST

A huge fan of Laurence Hobgood's compositions and arrangements, I was thrilled when he agreed to write an arrangement on Shoo Rye for my recording project, 'Southern Comfort'. He played and talked through a couple of initial ideas he had and was very open to any input I might have had. The end result was a thrilling and impressive composition which evokes images of the beautiful Appalachian landscapes. Hobgood's arrangement elicits thunderous applause at every concert.

REGINA CARTER, JAZZ VIOLINIST, MACARTHUR FELLOW

TEACHING

Thanks again for a great residency and concert. The students are still talking about the events of last week. You gave them superb feedback, perspective and direction. And your trio was fabulous.

**MICHAEL SAKASH, MUSIC DIRECTOR CONSERVATORY
FRYEBURG ACADEMY, FRYEBURG, MAINE**

Dear Laurence, Thank you for coming to Stanley. Middle school teachers need to be inspired, and you certainly did that for me. The students are still talking about YOU, your lecture, and your playing. Seldom in my life have I met anyone who could speak about music and play it at the level that you do.

I don't know what to say. I am a better person and musician for having met you. The little girl who sat next to you is one of the pianists. When I asked her what your message was, she said, "You have to tell a story". She got it and so did the rest of us!

That comment was consistent with all of the other adults present. Again, I am grateful that you got up so early, took BART, and gave of yourself so generously.

**BOB ATHAYDE, MUSIC DIRECTOR
STANLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, LAFAYETTE, CA**

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FROM WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Laurence Hobgood left a permanent imprint on Brisbane singers and instrumentalists at the workshop he conducted at Doo-Bop on Saturday 21st April 2018. It was a powerful afternoon, one that will continue to guide us through the internal dialogue we need to help determine what drives us as creative practitioners.

Ingrid James, jazz singer/educator, Brisbane

It is not that long ago that you would have to travel to the other side of the world to be mentored by a musician of the calibre of Laurence Hobgood, a multi-Grammy award nominee and winner. To be able to do this in our very own city, in the intimate setting of a world-class jazz venue was such a privilege. It was simply amazing.

Andrew Butt, saxophonist/educator

The workshops with Laurence Hobgood were an incredible opportunity to hear first-hand the philosophy of a master musician. The workshops were very valuable for my own music practice and my teaching. It is wonderful that Doo-Bop is providing access to visiting artists of this calibre through these workshops.

Melissa Forbes, jazz singer/educator, Toowoomba