

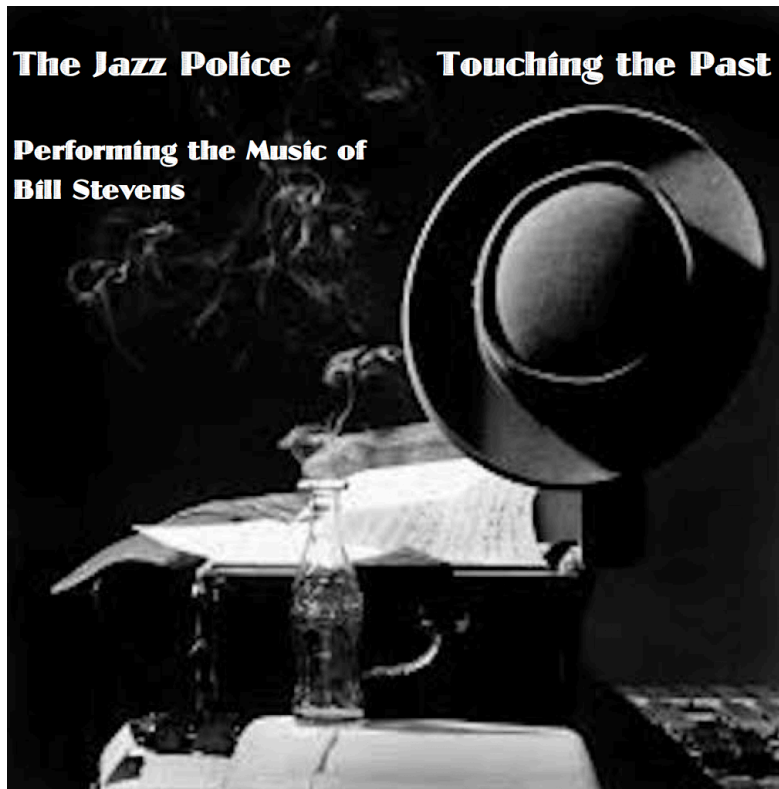
milessmiles productions presents from Seattle, Washington:

THE JAZZ POLICE

Directed by James Rasmussen

Touching the Past

Performing the Music of Bill Stevens



The Jazz Police

Touching the Past

**Performing the Music of
Bill Stevens**

Performing Big Band Arrangements by

Chick Corea, Jim Hall, Billy Strayhorn & Ron Miller

Plus Original Compositions & Arrangements by Bill Stevens

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• www.billstevensmusic.com

The Jazz Police - Performing the Music of Bill Stevens

The Music

Chick's Tune . . .	Chick Corea, arr. by Bill Stevens
Walk Soft . . .	Jim Hall, arr. by Bill Stevens
That's All You Need to Know . . .	Bill Stevens
Chelsea Bridge . . .	Billy Strayhorn, arr. by Bill Stevens
American Hope . . .	Ron Miller, arr. by Bill Stevens
Sweet Tender Peas . . .	Bill Stevens
Whose Blues . . .	Bill Stevens
Alone . . .	Bill Stevens
Kid Stuff . . .	Ron Miller, arr. by Bill Stevens

The Jazz Police, directed by James Rasmussen

Saxophones

Lead Alto: Greg Metcalf

Warren Pugh

Lead Tenor: Jim Cutler

Cynthia Mullis

Bari: Jim DeJoie

Trumpets

Lead: Mike Mines

Dennis Haldane

Alan Keith

Daniel Barry

Trombones

Lead: Dan Haeck

Steve Kirk

Pat Moran

Bass Bone: Dave Bentley

Rhythm Section

Vibraphone: Evan Beuhler

Guitar: Greg Fulton

Bass: David Pascal

Drums: Chris Monroe

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These performances have their beginnings dating back to 1973. While a student in high school in Syracuse, NY my band director, Burt Dunlap, turned us on to the music of the Big Bands. He would play recordings of the bands of Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, among others and we would play their music in our Jazz Ensemble rehearsals. He would encourage us to see these bands live when they passed through town. It was amazing to have the opportunity to hear these bands in person. As a student at Fredonia State, with no accredited Jazz program, but a vibrant student run ensemble, I became introduced to the the big bands of Count Basie, Woody Herman and Thad Jones for the first time. It wasn't just the playing now, but it was the writing as well that got my attention, especially the writing of Sammy Nestico and Thad Jones. After Fredonia, I attended the University of Miami where I had my first composition and arranging classes. The arranging class was taught by a brilliant big band composer, Gary Lindsay. I remember his emphasis was on the craft of arranging, creating interest with the unexpected. It was at this time that I became aware of the music of Gil Evans.

The first big band chart I arranged was of the composition Chick's Tune by Chick Corea in 1979 while in Miami, although in 1986 I revised the arrangement for a big band that I was performing in while now in Seattle, WA - The Puget Sound Jazz Ensemble (aka The Jazz Police) led by James Rasmussen. That band could play anything and I was honored that this arrangement was selected to be the lead chart on our first CD, The Jazz Police in 1988. Chick's Tune comes from a Blue Mitchell album on Blue Note Records, called The Thing You Do. Prior to leaving Miami, I had started an arrangement of the Jim Hall composition Walk Soft from the album Commitment with Art Farmer on flugelhorn which I based on a study of the arranging techniques of Gill Evans. It was also the first chart that I wrote for sax doubles using flutes, clarinets and bass clarinet. The thing I learned pretty quickly about writing for a big band was that you have to have access to one in order to have any chance of hearing your music and it wasn't until 1987 when I finally heard my arrangement of Walk Soft as played once again by the Jazz Police Big Band in Seattle. I soon added two more compositions to the Jazz Police book in 1988. I brought in probably my most ambitious arrangement yet, but like I said, this band could play anything. I put together an arrangement of an original bossa called Sweet Tender Peas and I arranged another original, this time a Blues that I called Whose Blues.

I left Seattle in 1990 to return to New York where I did not have access again to a Big Band until I joined the New York Jazz Workshop Big Band under the direction of Ron Horton in 2014. Ron really encourages its members to bring in their writing and I began

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to organize some ideas to once again do some big band arranging. With my first four arrangements, I looked to fill out my "book" with five additional charts in order to have what would be two sets of music in the event of a possible performance someday and in 2017 I selected and began to arrange five new big band charts, two of which were originals - That's All You Need to Know and the 3/4 ballad Alone from my first album, San Remo in 1983. I now looked for a second ballad in order to have one each set and I chose the Billy Strayhorn composition Chelsea Bridge where I used an arrangement I had originally done for a Jazz Messengers type ensemble I once played in. I attempted to maintain that small group sound throughout the head and in the ensemble section, I arranged the Gerry Mulligan transcribed solo from the album, Meets Ben Webster as a soli and shout chorus.

The final two pieces I arranged were by my composition teacher while at the University of Miami, Ron Miller. I arranged two of his early fusion based charts, American Hope and Kid Stuff.

These recordings would not have occurred without the assistance of a very special friend, James Rasmussen, the leader of the Jazz Police. In the summer of 2018, I reached out to James to see if he and the Jazz Police would be interested in reading and recording my new big band arrangements and compositions. When he told me that he was on board I immediately prepared the parts and scores to mail to James. The Jazz Police rehearsed my music and in September 2018 did a live recording at Tula's in Seattle, WA. and in October, I received the mp3's of that performance. In 2019 I will be releasing a feature song of the month of the Jazz Police performing my big band compositions and arrangements. I would like to thank James Rasmussen and the members of the Jazz Police Big Band for taking the time to rehearse and record this music so that I can present it to you at this time.

Thank you in advance for listening each month throughout 2019 and thank you for being the most important part of my music.

Bill

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Bill Stevens plays the trumpet and flugelhorn, is a composer and arranger and performs in New York City with many of his own ensembles. He has been a guest speaker at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway and the Australasian Jazz & Improvised Research Network in Melbourne, Australia. He has most recently served as the Assistant Principal - Administration, Supervisor of Arts Disciplines & Director of Jazz Studies at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts.

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Contact The Jazz Police, James Rasmussen james@duwamishcleanup.org

These 2019 performances are dedicated to Burt Dunlap, my North Syracuse High School Band Director; trumpet teachers - Elliot Topalian, Herbert Winters Harp & Laurie Frink and Gary Lindsay, Arranging Teacher, University of Miami. My love to Laura and Miles who complete my life. And finally, I would like, in dedication, to thank the students of the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble for ten years (2005 - 2015) of amazing big band and small group performing and memories. Straught Ahead!

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FSSA Jazz Hall of Fame

Trumpets

Francisco Nunez
Aaron Gibbs
Joshua Pearl
Eddie Castro
Abraham Vasquez
Jelani Bauman
Steve Fowler
Johannes Smith
Brian Wilson
Minerva Johnson
Mathew Castellon
Keefe Martin
Alex Barth
Aamir Porter
Brandon Joza
Sebastian Gill
Randy Bernardez
Gabriella Mendez
Giselle Flores
Maxwell Williams
Earl Simons
Sebastian Arias

Saxophones

Michael Amador
Lindsey Shack
Jerel Witsell
Vinincio Haro - flute
James Gamble – clarinet
Jamal Clarke
Alexis Rondon
Zander Nicastro
John Dorado
Allan Yourke
Nick Green
Jordan Young
Elijah Ten
Nahemius Gomez
Grant Ashford
Addison Manion
Kanaan Anders

Enrique Cortez
Jonathon Olivera
Christon Zawodniak -
clarinet
Marco Manrique
Alyssa Bailey
Lucas Bargubuhr
Amber Colquhoun
Griffin Koelbel
Ben Levine

Trombones

Justin Tokke
Malcome Skinner
Rocio Gosende - vocals
Newrence Wills
David Rukki
Ryan Hanrahan
Luis Giron
Billy Duffy
Francine Crociata
Henry Cali
DJ Zentla
Michael Meneses
Cooper Myers

Guitar

Paisley Kang
Kyle Scanlon
Zac Suskevich
Mike Mroz
Logan Vrankovic
Ralph Mendoza

Piano

Jason Lee
Thomas McElhenny
Daniel Fanshel
Eric Kenny
Jarvis Green
Basielle Richardson
Moss Robeson
Matt Peralta - bass
Cory Crayton

Bass

Michael Iskhakov
Evelyn Chin
Bernardo Rodriguez
Luca Rosenfeld
Desi Kuntz
Nick Oddo
Evan Lawrence
Matt Peralta
Tahj Greaves

Drums

Rich Quatrano
Theo Kalaitas - vibes
Peter Gozzi
Kentaro Moore
JC Myska
Henry Anderson
Michalina Vessio
Dante Vessio
Jordan Carr

Vocals

Rebecca Duetsch
Kristina Kovach
Jose Quartas
Brigitte Zozula
Annmarie Errico
Rocio Gosende
Juliette Stewart
Rosdeli Marte
Erica D'Ancona

Miscellaneous

Berleen Joseph – clarinet
Mike Stupakevich – flugel
Philip Weisbord – flugel
Tatiana Lizcano – vocals
Rodrigo Cespedes – vocals
David Valbuena - clarinet

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