

Jazz Beyond Borders

Fueled by 12 years of accolades and awards for his work in the U.S., Canadian sax player **Jeff Antoniuk** set out to form his own dream band: the Jazz Update. They celebrated the release of their first album together in 2007. Within months the CD *Here Today* was being heard over jazz radio all over the US and Canada where it rose to No. 3 in the jazz charts. Radio stations from Europe to Asia were playing it, and why not? *Here Today* brims with Antoniuk originals and luscious covers of Ellington, Monk and Golson.



Jeff Antoniuk, saxophonist, composer and bandleader

The group also achieved stellar success in the world of high tech sound. Their album captured a No. 2 position for jazz in the vast Music Choice Network, a huge supplier of cable, high speed Internet and broadband music for millions of residential and commercial music fans.

Sell out shows at Blues Alley and The Kennedy Center showed Jeff Antoniuk and the Jazz Update to be equally adept at live performance. The group sizzles whether performing in concerts or for festivals, clubs or jazz cruises,

Shows feature edgy new compositions and a wealth of exquisite jazz material from the greatest periods. Host them for a memorable jazz event.

“The music has a spacious quality . . . lovely. . . honest.”

Richard Kamins, Cadence Magazine

About The Group

The Jazz Update features some of the most in-demand players on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. Band members have collectively appeared on well over 100 albums. Their repertoire ranges from straight ahead jazz to avant-garde and includes many original tunes.

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The Jazz Update features (L to R) pianist Wade Beach, drummer Tony Martucci, saxophonist Jeff Antoniuk and bassist Tom Baldwin.

Group Bios



Saxophonist **Jeff Antoniuk** is internationally respected as a jazz composer and musician. He appears on numerous recordings and is consistently well received by the critics. After earning a master's degree from the University of North Texas in jazz performance and West-African ethno-musicology, Antoniuk spent a decade touring with the Unified Jazz Ensemble, forming his own heavy hitting quartet in 2004. Now based in Annapolis, Maryland, the jet-setting musician has had little time to look back.

The artistic director of the Maryland Summer Jazz Festival, Antoniuk has been a featured performer and teaching artist at the Edmonton International Jazz Festival and the National Music Center and performs often at the National Harbor Center and a host of other venues. He is associated with Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS), and the new Capitol Jazz Project – an extension of Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis. He also teaches at Towson University.



Bassist **Tom Baldwin** has backed modern jazz greats like James Moody, George Garzone and Eric Alexander, and performs often with lauded jazz guitarist Steve Herberman. Baldwin shines in countless venues, such as the Wolftrap Jazz and Blues Festival and Princeton JazzFeast. Highly respected as a tasteful, articulate and inspired bassist, he teaches at the University of Maryland.



Phenomenal pianist **Wade Beach** is widely respected for his harmonic sophistication and superb technique, which knows no stylistic limitations. He holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland. He entered the world of jazz as a protégé of Sir Roland Hanna and toured the globe many times over with the Airmen of Note. He is on the faculty of George Mason University and the Maryland Summer Jazz Festival.



Drummer **Tony Martucci** has played and recorded with giants from almost every period of jazz, including Mose Allison, Joe Henderson and Sonny Stitt. He teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University. Wrote *Music Monthly*, "Martucci's drum set magic is rich in detail and ambience..." Jazz Times said Martucci "is an exciting yet sensitive player with chops, taste ..." He brings these qualities to every performance.

*“ . . .Antoniuk and
his cohorts
displayed a finesse
that was thrilling
to listen to and
exciting to watch.”*

Michael Macey, Chesapeake Music Guide

Choose From These Exciting Programs

Here Today

The band loves to play their critically acclaimed compositions, along with other contemporary and classic favorites. The muse calls often and they listen, creating a lasting impression and memorable music wherever they are heard.

In anticipation of the Jazz Update's 2007 CD release, Mike Joyce of The Washington Post wrote, "Saxophonist Antoniuk will be unveiling tunes from Jazz Update's debut CD 'Here Today,' including several original pieces that reveal his impressive skills as a composer."



The Here Today program gives an intriguing snapshot of the state of jazz in the 21st century; new compositions by composers at the forefront of their art form, and up to date renditions of vintage jazz from the 20's to the present.

Coltrane with Clave

Originally commissioned by the Latin American Folk Institute in Washington, DC, this fascinating program explores the Latin concepts hidden in the music of the modern jazz genius, John Coltrane (1926-1967). Antoniuk dug through the Coltrane cannon and found an amazing number of tunes just waiting to be reworked with the Latin rhythms that were just beneath the surface!

This fascinating program caught the interest of NPR's "Metro Connection" on WAMU. In September of 2004 Antoniuk was featured speaking on jazz education and Coltrane's Latin connection.

Mostly Monk

Thelonious Monk (1917-1982) is legendary. When the pianist's birthday rolls around in October, deejays pull out well-known favorites like "Blue Monk" and deeper cuts like "Four in One." Bandleader Jeff Antoniuk included the latter in his own popular CD, *Here Today*.

Blues Alley, the premiere jazz club in the United States, originally commissioned the "Mostly Monk" program for a Monk birthday bash in 2005. The show was a huge hit and continues to evolve.

Salute to Billy Strayhorn

The theme concert saluting the timeless music of pianist, arranger and composer Billy Strayhorn (1915 - 1967) is another deep well of musical discovery.

Best known for his collaboration with Duke Ellington and his much played "Take the 'A' Train," Strayhorn left a huge volume of work to the world. This tribute brings forth lesser-known pieces such as "Johnny Come

Lately," "Rain Check," and the tune Strayhorn wrote for his doctors at the Upper Manhattan Medical Group, "U.M.M.G." (Saxophonist Joe Henderson paid similar homage in the Grammy Award winning album *Lush Life*.)

American Royalty *The Music of Duke Ellington*

The Jazz Update offers well known and beloved tunes for this program. Perhaps because band members happen to be university jazz professors, they also love digging deep for the lesser know treasures. Thus, "Azure," "Love You Madly," and "Warm Valley," unfold along with "Satin Doll" and "Caravan."

Revered around the world the world as one of the greatest composers of his time (1899-1974), Duke Ellington has over 2,000 compositions to his credit. Hear these gems the way they are meant to be played.

The Blue Note Era *Joe Henderson and Kenny Dorham*

For this special program premiered in Annapolis, Maryland, Jeff Antoniuk teams up with international trumpet stars such as Dave Ballou and Alex Norris to pay tribute to the classic Blue Note albums of Joe Henderson and Kenny Dorham (trumpet). Listening to live music from this fertile period is a big treat for any jazz lover. Audiences will enjoy tunes such as "Serenity," "Punjab," and "Recordame" in this quintet performance.

"Antoniuk continues a long-running tradition among jazz composers of stretching boundaries."

Michael Buckley, WRNR 103.5 FM

Earth Day Jazz Concert

This memorable program honors Earth Day with music written to celebrate the beauty and majesty of the planet. It can be performed for an evening concert or an earlier family friendly event.

Decades ago Paul Winter wove the sounds of whales and wolves into landmark albums which celebrated the earth and its creatures. This program feature's Winter's theme song, "Icarus," along with Antoniuk's West African influenced "Global Village" and the reggae to swing tune, "Rain."

Also featured are Charles Lloyd's "Forest Flower" and "On the Trail," by Ferde Grofe. Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Rockville, Maryland originally commissioned this inspiring program in 2006.



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