

Resonance

by Marcia Hillman

Resonance Records may be one of the newer kids in the recording industry, but it has started to make its mark. Launched in March of 2008, the label already boasts a 2009 Grammy Award (Best Instrumental Arrangement: Bill Cunliffe - *The Resonance Big Band Plays Tribute to Oscar Peterson*) and a 2009 Grammy nomination (Best Latin Jazz Album: Claudio Roditi - *Brazilliance X 4*).

Based in Los Angeles, Resonance is a division of the Rising Jazz Stars Foundation, a California 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation formed in 2005. Its founder and president George Klabin has an impressive history as a producer and audio engineer, recording a wide array of jazz heavyweights such as Dexter Gordon, Bill Evans, James Moody, Illinois Jacquet and Keith Jarrett among others. In this day of few major labels and fewer labels devoted to jazz, Resonance is a throwback to the '60s and '70s when it was possible to get new jazz artists recorded on a label specializing in jazz. "There are practically no major jazz labels left," Klabin comments. "Those that exist rarely sign any new artists, just the already known ones." As far as exposure, Klabin continues, "Unknown artists rarely perform at any of the hundreds of jazz festivals or larger jazz clubs, which are exactly the places where

they would most benefit being heard."

Klabin is the driving engine behind the company and acts as the traditional recording industry A&R Department, discovering the artists and producing the records. The label's staff includes Zev Feldman, Executive Vice President of Operations, Label/Product Manager Sydney B. Lanex, Internet & Creative Director Anthony Polis and National Promotion Manager Eric Talbert. These staff members all have been chosen for weighty backgrounds in their individual fields. The label has distribution in the US, Europe and Japan and is constantly looking to expand into every jazz-loving corner of the rest of the world. CDs can also be purchased at the label's website, where prospective buyers can read artist bios and watch video interviews, listen to two-minute samples of new releases and download tracks.

Currently the label has 23 releases. One of the latest, *Destinations*, is Israeli-born pianist Tamir Hendelman in trio with bassist Marco Panascia and drummer Lewis Nash. Hendelman explains, "George and I talked about the kind of recording I wanted to make. The musical influences from my homeland and Brazil, etc. We looked for songs that would allow me to stretch and on finding the right setting. In the end, we decided that all we needed was to put Lewis, Marco and I in one room and see what happened!"

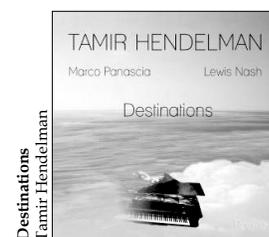
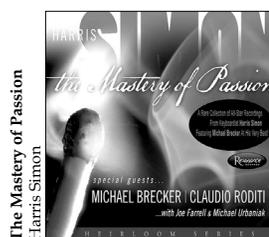
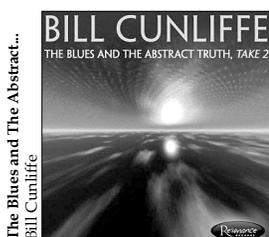
This is the kind of creative atmosphere Klabin offers at Resonance for his roster of 18 artists including pianists Hendelman and Marian Petrescu; vocalists

Cathy Rocco and Greta Matassa, violinist Christian Howes and guitarists Andreas Oberg and Toninho Horta. There is also an Heirloom Series, which is devoted to issuing performances by known artists not previously available. These have included albums by pianist Gene Harris, keyboardist Harris Simon and, most notably, *Pieces of Jade* by Scott LaFaro (Bill Evans' bassist who died in 1961 at 25), recorded with pianist Don Friedman and drummer Pete LaRoca. Klabin explains, "This great music was actually a demo. These five cuts were sent to Riverside Records and were what got Friedman his first album deal." Klabin adds that he feels fortunate he "has a record company where I can put this material out."

The label has its own recording facilities where Klabin does the engineering. "I use all digital recording", he says, "but know how to get a very warm digital sound, not harsh. I came from analog, so I know what warmth is." But Resonance has plans in addition to producing CDs. There are video facilities as well and Klabin states, "We also want to do professional videos. I believe the future of jazz entertainment lies in well-made videos marketed as DVDs on TV and the internet. It also helps a booker for a festival or a club to both see and hear the artist in performance."

Klabin also envisions establishing a booking division for the label that will place artists into festivals and clubs. This 'full-service' attitude and attention to the artist also bespeaks of what record

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LISTEN UP!

Trumpeter/composer **JOSH DEUTSCH** was born in Seattle, where he started playing piano and composing before finding an affinity for trumpet. After earning degrees in jazz performance and composition from the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Oregon, he moved to Queens and performs as a leader and with the Duke Ellington Big Band, Sofia Rei Koutsovitis and Michael Bates.

Teachers: Danilo Perez, Bob Brookmeyer, John McNeil, Allan Chase, Brian McWhorter.

Influences: Bill Evans, Kenny Wheeler, Ron Miles, Freddie Hubbard, Bill Frisell, Billy Strayhorn, Györgi Ligeti, Igor Stravinsky, Béla Bartók, Björk, Stevie Wonder.

Current Projects: The Ligeti Project (original music for jazz septet, composed in tribute to Ligeti's "Musica Ricercata"), Josh Deutsch/Nico Soffiato Duo and Josh Deutsch Quintet.

By Day: Teaching piano and trumpet students, practicing and composing, playing lots of sessions.

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... My career choices on an SAT bubble sheet were performer, composer, conductor, music teacher and nothing else... figured I'd go ahead and give up on making a lot of money and go for some combination of those.

Dream Band: I'd love to collaborate with Bill Frisell, Jason Moran, Ben Allison and do some more playing with Danilo Perez. Wish I could have played with Bill

Evans and the Miles Davis '60s quintet.

Did You Know? If I wasn't a musician I'd probably try the culinary world, although after a couple cooking gigs, I prefer to keep that as a hobby. Someday if I ever save enough money, watch for the restaurant!

For more information, visit joshdeutsch.net. Deutsch is at ten10 Studios Oct. 2nd, I-Beam Oct. 9th as part of FONT and University of the Streets Oct. 27th. See Calendar.



Josh Deutsch



Ben Syversen

During the nearly three years he has lived in Brooklyn, trumpeter **BEN SYVERSEN** has played with many top improvising musicians and been active in the city's Balkan music scene. Syversen has toured throughout the US and Japan and has performed at the North Sea and Newport Jazz Festivals.

Teachers: Several have helped me quite a bit with trumpet fundamentals, particularly Joey Tartell and Laurie Frink. For improvisation and composition, I've mostly learned by observing what works and doesn't

work for others, asking well-placed questions and taking a lesson or two with musicians that I admire.

Influences: Lester Bowie, Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Ellery Eskelin and Tony Malaby. Composers like Lutoslawski and Elliot Carter. Experimental rock of the last 40 years: Tom Waits, Can, Deerhoof and Micachu. Also literature: Roberto Bolano, Tom Robbins, etc.

Current Projects: My trio with Xander Naylor (guitar) and Jeremy Gustin (drums) just released an album titled *Cracked Vessel*. I also play with Raya Brass Band and a few other improvised music and Balkan groups in town.

By Day: Practicing, composing, rehearsing. I also do some academic tutoring to pay the bills.

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... I quit the baseball team in sixth grade because "I wanted to spend more time playing trumpet." I didn't really know what that meant at the time, but I guess I was serious!

Dream Band: Since group rapport is so important to me and I'm never excited by 'super groups', my dream band is my current band after we've been playing and developing together for 15 or 20 years.

Did You Know? This summer I started keeping a rooftop beehive in Brooklyn with a friend of mine.

For more information, visit bensyversen.com. Syversen is at I-Beam Oct. 1st and 9th as part of FONT and Downtown Music Gallery Oct. 10th. See Calendar.