



# DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE

## February 2008

**Pete Mills**  
**Fresh Spin**  
**Chicken Coup 7009**  
**3 1/2 Stars**

Jim Snidero  
Tippin'  
Savant 2086  
3 1/2 Stars

**The spirit of classic organ groups led by the likes of Brother Jack McDuff, Jimmy Smith and Jimmy McGriff is reflected in the nimble improvisations and reliable groovemaking heard on satisfying new sessions led by alto saxophonist Jim Snidero and tenor saxophonist Pete Mills. Both CDs make timely reminders of the format's viability.**

Snidero, who launched his professional career with an early-'80s stint in McDuff's quartet, salutes his old boss with Tippin's title track, a burning blues built around a simple phrase. He toasts another influence and employer, saxophonist Frank Wess, with the mellow, gospel-tinged ballad "Let's Be Frank" and contributes two other original tunes—the stair-stepping "K2" and modified blues "Fried Oysters," the latter as good and greasy as its name implies. The standard "Alone Together," with Paul Bollenback's guitar lines spinning off Snidero's reading of the melody, is a treat, as is the challenging, quick-paced "Young Like," Mike LeDonne's nod to B-3 great Larry Young.

**Fresh Spin boasts a warmer sound, in part owing to the big, bracing bite of Mills' tenor and partly due to a bottoms-up approach to the CD's sound mix. Midtempo swing rules—as Tony Monaco mans the B-3 chair—with detours to the old-school r&b of guitarist Pete McCann's "Crooked Cheese" and inspired takes on Horace Silver's "Diggin' On Dexter" and Billy Strayhorn's delicate "A Flower Is A Lovesome Thing," played as a Mills-McCann duet. Mills' originals are fine, too, particularly the opener "Straight Up" with its references to Miles Davis' "Four." —Philip Booth**

Tippin': Tippin'; Let's Be Frank; Young Like; The More I See You; Lover Man Oh Where Can You Be?; You Stepped Out Of A Dream; K2; Alone Together; Fried Oysters. (52:01)

Personnel: Jim Snidero, alto saxophone; Mike LeDonne, Hammond B-3 organ; Paul Bollenback, guitar; Tony Reedus, drums.

**Fresh Spin: Straight Up; Eddie; Fossil; Too Close To Call; Schlooze; Diggin' On Dexter; Crooked Cheese; Talkin' With The Tubs; Winter Rain; For A Beginning; A Flower Is A Lovesome Thing. (59:59)**

**Personnel: Pete Mills, tenor saxophone; Tony Monaco, Hammond B-3 organ; Pete McCann, guitar; Jim Rupp, drums; Andy Woodson, bass (3, 7, 9).**