

Pete Mills

Fresh Spin



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Street and Radio Add Date: October 9th 2007
Description



Chicken Coup Records 7009
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Tracks

1. Straight Up (6:00)
2. Eddie (6:11)
3. Fossil (5:21)
4. Too Close to Call (4:52)
5. Schlooze (4:59)
6. Diggin' on Dexter (6:54)
7. Crooked Cheese (6:03)
8. Talkin' with the Tubs (5:20)
9. Winter Rain (6:35)
10. For a Beginning (5:17)
11. A Flower is a Lovesome Thing (2:23)

Musicians

Pete Mills, tenor saxophone
Tony Monaco, B3 Organ
Pete McCann, guitar
Jim Rupp, drums
Andy Woodson, bass (tracks 3,7,9)

All compositions by Pete Mills (Mighty Ernie Music, BMI), except "Crooked Cheese" (Pete McCann, SESAC), Diggin on Dexter (Horace Silver, ECAROH Music ASCAP) and A Flower is a Lovesome Thing (BSS/Cherry Lane Music, ASCAP)

Recorded December 11-12, 2006 at Columbus Sound, Galena OH. Mastered by A..T Michael MacDonald at Algorhythms NYC.

Pete Mills new release, *Fresh Spin*, is the follow up to the saxophonist's critically acclaimed 2004 Summit Records debut, *Art and Architecture* (4 Stars, All Music Guide). Featuring **Tony Monaco** on the B3 organ, *Fresh Spin* is released on Monaco's Summit imprint, Chicken Coup Records. It also includes the exceptional guitar work of NYC based **Pete McCann**, drummer **Jim Rupp** and bassist **Andy Woodson**. Eleven compositions fill this high energy groove and bop based recording, including a little known Horace Silver composition *Diggin' on Dexter* and Billy Strayhorn's haunting ballad *A Flower is a Lovesome Thing*. Organ marvel **Tony Monaco** fires up the B3 on this recording, the first to showcase his talents since 2005's *East to West* (**top 5 JazzWeek Radio Chart**).

"I tend to gravitate toward music that commands my attention immediately with something unusual, be it a rhythmic, melodic or harmonic twist. But for it to be something I will listen to again and again, it must have many layers, so that on multiple listening there is always something new to hear. As a composer I strive to create this kind of music and as a performer, put myself in these types of playing situations. The *Fresh Spin* sessions yielded music that accomplished this. There is an incredible energy, swing and positive vibe throughout the recording, due to the marvelous chemistry between each of us. Tony, Jim, Pete and Andy get to the heart of my music and the result is something that I very proud of."

About Pete Mills

A native of Toronto, Canada, Pete Mills (b.1966) has earned degrees from Eastman and The University of North Texas. He has been awarded grants from The North Carolina Arts Council, The Canada Arts Council and performs across the US and Canada. Critics have called his playing "virtuosic" and "gorgeous" (David Franklin, JazzTimes) and *The Columbus Dispatch's* Curt Schieber writes of Mills' compositions as being "impressive with solos that are ear opening...with a tone that is big and rich". Mills is featured on almost a dozen recordings, with *Fresh Spin* being his third solo release (a follow up to 2004's *Art and Architecture*). Based in Columbus OH, he is a member of trumpeter Byron Stripling's Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Mills is active as a clinician and currently teaches jazz studies at Denison University.

For a more in-depth look, please visit **Pete Mills** on the web at petemills.com and myspace.com/petemillsjazz

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Track By Track

1. Straight Up

The CD starts off on a swinging note with a medium bop composition based on the harmonic rhythm of “*It Could Happen To You*.” With Tony on the B3, drummer Jim Rupp laying down a nice groove and Pete Mills’ big tenor sound, your mind’s ear recalls the Jimmy Smith/Stanley Turrentine tradition.

2. Eddie

Eddie is Pete’s tribute to the great saxophonist Eddie Harris, creating an earthy head ping between the extremes of the horn’s range for both rhythm and harmony. “Eddie” has that Les McCann-Eddie Harris feel – it’s all about having fun with Pete Mills angular but soulful lines and Tony Monaco’s understated, then funky, then just mad keyboard ranting.

3. Fossil

This modal burner gives guitarist Pete McCann the space to stretch his creative limbs through the form. “I love to work with Pete [McCann] as he is an exceptional soloist and as an accompanist he allows me the freedom to play anything that comes to me,” says Mills. This quartet tune, with bassist Andy Woodson replacing Tony Monaco and Jim Rupp on drums giving Fossil the energy of Elvin in full fury, opens the recording project to new rhythmic and harmonic possibilities.

4. Too Close to Call

As Mills’ says “on an organ record you gotta have a blues Tony takes the second solo and breaks it down as greasy as it can be.” Mills’ sinuous and muscular lines are just as well-oiled.

5. Schlooze

Schlooze has its roots in the standard jazz tradition, but with a tongue-in-cheek twist. It was written during a period that Mills was listening to a great deal of the music of saxophonist Jerry Bergonzi; his music is rhythmically interesting with a sense of humor in all that he plays. If you listen at the end of the track there is laughter. This session must have been a blast...

6. Diggin’ on Dexter

First recorded on 1996’s “*Hard Bop Grandpop*,” this Horace Silver composition epitomizes the economy, simplicity and swing of Horace’s music. Pete Mills’ goal as a composer is to create music like this – catchy, witty and simply fun

7. Crooked Cheese

“I asked McCann if he had a tune that would work well with the B3 organ,” Mills says, “he sent me *Crooked Cheese*. With bassist Andy Woodson we created a jam-band vibe.” This groove blues is the only quintet track on the disc. Tony Monaco lays into the organ, tangled up in some middle eastern scale, then splaying out the gospel (of crooked cheese), Mills finds a way to give the tune a strange and groovy melodic voice while McCann shreds his choruses with a burning rocked out solo, complete with the requisite distortion effects.

8. Talkin’ with the Tubs

Drummers and tenor players have a fondness for musical dialogue. This up-tempo burner features conversation between Mills’ tenor and Jim Rupp’s tubs. Hang on for the ride as Mills, McCann, Monaco, and Rupp all tear it up on this one.

9. Winter Rain

This guitar-based quartet tune (Monaco sits out), has an ECM-ish straight 8th feel, reminiscent of the music of Pat Metheny (particularly his collaborations with saxophonists Dewey Redman and Michael Brecker). This wistful interpretive track features an organic and soul-filling bass solo of Andy Woodson.

10. For a Beginning

This waltz was written on the occasion of the birth of Pete Mills’ first nephew. It is meant to say something about childlike simplicity, hopefulness and beauty.

11. A Flower is a Lovesome Thing

Billy Strayhorn’s music is some of the most beautiful ever written. Mills and McCann recorded *Chelsea Bridge* as a duo on his 2004 release *Art and Architecture*. They end *Fresh Spin* with another elegant Strayhorn composition, presenting the melody twice through, languidly and gracefully...

