

Pete Mills

Sweet Shadow

featuring

Matt Wilson, Pete McCann,
Martin Wind and Erik Augis



Cellar Live Records CL 070813

Tracks

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Shiner | 5:05 |
| 2. Summer | 5:59 |
| 3. The Snagel | 6:45 |
| 4. Duo 1 | 1:20 |
| 5. New School | 6:56 |
| 6. Sweet Shadow | 6:06 |
| 7. Serenade to a Cuckoo
(Roland Kirk) | 4:54 |
| 8. Close to Never | 5:32 |
| 9. Duo 2 | 2:18 |
| 10. The Star Crossed Lovers
(Ellington/Strayhorn) | 5:14 |
| 11. Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend
(Robin/Styne) | 4:17 |
| 12. Blues for Mel | 5:39 |
| 13. Elora Dolce | 4:05 |
| bonus track | |
| 14. Momentum | 6:11 |

Musicians

Pete Mills, tenor saxophone
Pete McCann, acoustic and electric guitar
Erik Augis, piano
Martin Wind, bass
Matt Wilson, drums

Recorded January 7 and 8, 2013 at Trading 8s Music, Paramus, NJ
Mixed by Chris Sulit, Pete McCann and Pete Mills
Mastered by Rob (Wacko!) Hunter at The Attic, Groton NY
Produced by Pete Mills, Pete McCann and Tom Christensen
Executive Producer Cory Weeds
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Saxophonist/composer **Pete Mills'** brand new release, *Sweet Shadow* marks the follow up to his critically acclaimed *Fresh Spin* (3 ½ stars *DownBeat Magazine*) and his debut on fellow Canadian, Cory Weeds' *Cellar Live Records*. The project features some of the brightest voices in jazz today- drummer **Matt Wilson** and guitarist **Pete McCann** (both important contributors to Mills' past recorded works), bassist **Martin Wind** (Matt Wilson Quartet) and a new voice, pianist and Columbus, OH native **Erik Augis**. *Sweet Shadow* is an exciting romp through a modern jazz landscape full of twists and turns and includes nine original compositions and two free-form duos with Matt Wilson. Mills also continues his exploration of the Ellington/Strayhorn songbook with a unique version of *The Star Crossed Lovers* and pays tribute to saxophonist *Rahsaan Roland Kirk* in a trio version of his most famous tune, *Serenade to a Cuckoo*. *Sweet Shadow* captures Mills and the band at their best and is easily his finest release to date.

About Pete Mills

Critics have called Toronto-native Pete Mills' playing "virtuosic", "gorgeous" and "versatile tenor-kick-butt" (*David Franklin, JazzTimes*). The *Columbus Dispatch* describes Mills' compositions as being "impressive with solos that are ear opening...with a tone that is big and rich". In addition to *Sweet Shadow*, Mills' discography as a leader includes *Fresh Spin*, his 2007 collaboration with B3 organist Tony Monaco which earned 3 1/2 stars in *DownBeat Magazine*, and 2004's release *Art and Architecture* (also featuring Matt Wilson and Pete McCann), which garnered 4-stars from the *All Music Guide*. Mills' first solo disc *Momentum* (COJAZZ Records) was also acclaimed. As a sideman he appears on over a dozen CDs and performs regularly throughout the U.S and Canada. In his adopted hometown of Columbus, Ohio, Pete is a featured soloist with *Byron Stripling's Columbus Jazz Orchestra*.

For a more in-depth look, please visit Pete on the web at

www.petemills.com

www.facebook.com/petemillsjazz

**Available on iTunes, Google Play, Amazon
and all major online retailers**

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Track by Track

1. Shiner

Shiner is based on the standard My Shining Hour and has rhythmic and melodic content that draws inspiration from tunes like Monk's Evidence. Pete, Erik and I get to blow over the magic carpet groove of Matt Wilson and Martin Wind. Dig.

2. Summer

I have written music to commemorate births and written music for good friends. My niece and nephews asked me to write a tune for their dog! Good thing she is also named after my favorite season.

3. The Snagel

A carb-loaded sugary delight served at the Denison University coffee-house. This bagel and cream cheese, smothered with brown sugar, combined with a cup of strong coffee is the perfect companion to an all-nighter. Pete McCann gets to the essence of this tasty treat during his solo.

4 & 9. Duos 1 and 2

My friend Mark planned to attend the session hang, with us and write a bit about the goings on, but he was unable to fly...TSA, NSA, CIA, TBA, I 'm not exactly sure why he missed his flight...He asked me to record a duo with Matt and send it to him. The first one was so much fun we did two. I wanted to share them both with you.

5. New School

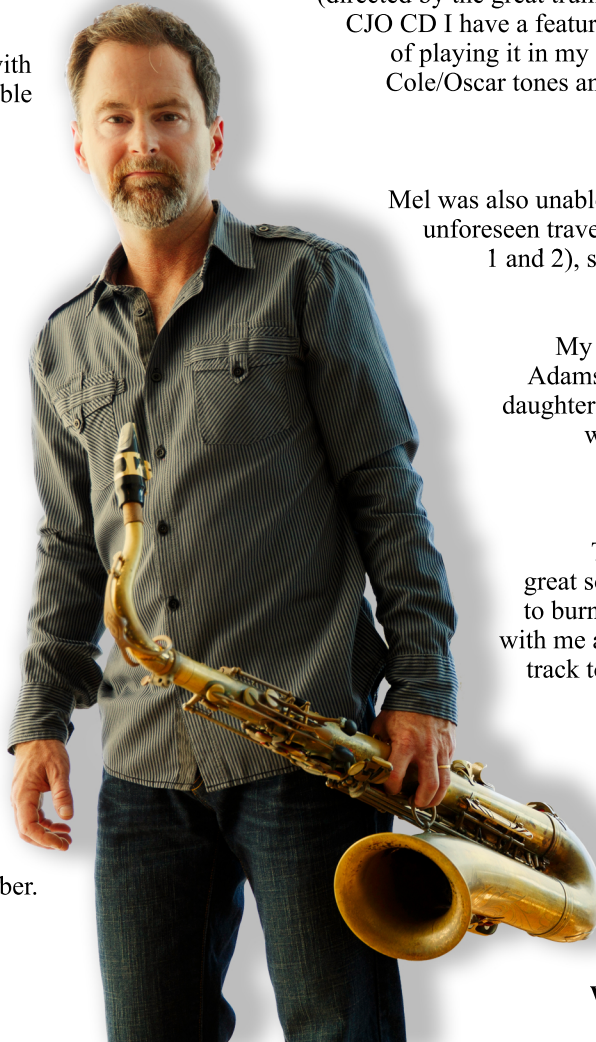
Inspiration for this came from listening to one of my favorite trumpeter/composers Tim Hagans. The blowing is over a minor blues but the melody is something quite different. Check out Matt and Martin at the end of this track!

6. Sweet Shadow

I set out to write a ballad that had elements of pop music in it and Sweet Shadow was born. Martin's bass solo is beautiful and the tune has a nice "slow burn" throughout. This tune is great fun to play live.

7. Serenade to a Cuckoo

My current hometown (Columbus, OH) has a rich jazz tradition. One of Cbus' favorite sons is saxophonist /multi-instrumentalist Roland Kirk. The chordless trio format here works great. Matt and Martin swing the heck out of this one and they both add a great element of humor to this quirky little number.



8. Close to Never

The jazz musician's answer to the question of "how soon till this music thing pans out for ya?" This tune has what I call a "signature Matt Wilson groove" -a swingin'-funky-groovy all over the place romp. Watch out.

10. The Star Crossed Lovers

Ellington and Strayhorn's music flows through my recordings and each rendition is a tribute to my father who was one of their biggest fans. This treatment is unique with a straight 8th feel and some beautiful acoustic guitar from Pete.

11. Diamonds

One of my steady gigs is playing in The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (directed by the great trumpeter Byron Stripling). On the last CJO CD I have a feature on this tune and have grown fond of playing it in my Quartet. Erik plays some great Nat Cole/Oscar tones and Martin's bowed bass solo was an unannounced gem.

12. Blues for Mel

Mel was also unable to get to the recording date due to unforeseen travel delays (see acronyms under Duos 1 and 2), so this blues in 3 is dedicated to her.

13. Elora Dolce

My buddy, the great trumpeter, Dwight Adams called to tell me of the birth of his daughter Elora and I was just about finished with this tune. It is dedicated to her.

BONUS TRACK

14. Momentum

The session was a gas (great studio, great sounds, nice lunch) and we had time to burn at the end. I had a few extra tunes with me and pulled out Momentum (the title track to my first CD. We got two burning takes of this one. I included take 1 as a little bonus.

*For a more in-depth look,
please visit Pete at*

www.petemills.com
www.facebook.com/petemillsjazz