

Interconnection

NEW DUET RECORDING BY GUITARIST BOB SNEIDER & PIANIST PAUL HOFMANN

Carrying on the tradition of Bill Evans and Jim Hall

“[Sneider has] one of the most refreshingly original jazz guitar styles you’re likely to hear.”

— David R. Adler, *All Music Guide*

“[Hofmann is] swinging, rock-solid; inventive and technically masterful...”

— Mike Metheny, *Jazz Ambassadors Magazine*

New York, NY – Sons of Sound proudly announces the April 6, 2004 release of *Interconnection* (SSPCD019), a recording that pays tribute to the classic Bill Evans and Jim Hall recordings of the 1960s: *Undercurrent* (United Artists) and *Intermodulation* (Verve). *Interconnection* is deeply inspired by Hall and Evans as well as other classic jazz duos, such as Nat Cole-Oscar Moore and Chick Corea-Gary Burton. Sneider and Hofmann have created tightly-knit arrangements and ensemble sections to give this recording its beauty and intensity.

Both players contribute first-rate writing, instrumental technique, and improvisation to the ten tracks, which include Hofmann’s four-part “Jazz Suite for Guitar and Piano” among six other originals by the artists. The three standards represented are Ellington’s “Mood Indigo,” also known as “Dreamy Blues,” first popularized in 1930; Jobim’s “Desafinado,” arranged with the composer’s original vocal phrasing; and George and Ira Gershwin’s “Bidin’ My Time” from 1930’s *Girl Crazy*, the same show that provided the more often recorded “I Got Rhythm,” “Embraceable You” and “But Not For Me.”

In the liner notes for the release, Bob Blumenthal writes: “The first thing to notice about *Interconnection* is just how seamlessly Bob Sneider and Paul Hofmann do connect. Pianists and guitarists often find it difficult to coexist in an improvisational setting, and piano/guitar duos are rare; but check out the pairs that have worked in this context (Bill Evans and Jim Hall, Gil Goldstein and Pat Martino, Oscar Peterson and Joe Pass, Benny Green and Russell Malone) and you find that their empathy extends beyond technique and harmonic intelligence to attitude. Each player does not merely follow the other; he is inclined by temperament to do so. Ditto Sneider and Hofmann.”

Guitarist/Composer **Bob Sneider** is a Chuck Mangione tour veteran and two-time winner of

the *DownBeat* Outstanding Performance in Jazz award, both at the high school and college levels. He has performed with Nat Adderley, Houston Person, Etta Jones, Nnenna Freelon, Lou Donaldson, Stanley Turrentine, Fred Wesley, Steve Gadd, Freddie Cole, Jon Faddis, Keeter Betts, Jay Leonhart, and frequently appears with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops.

Pianist/Composer **Paul Hofmann** has written music with Kevin Mahogany, as well as touring, recording, and appearing with the vocalist on PBS. He has also performed or recorded with Karrin Allyson, The Smothers Brothers, Ron Carter, Steve Gadd, Richie Cole, Ralph LaLama, Fred Wesley, Steve Turre, Joe Magnarelli, Joe Romano, Claude 'Fiddler' Williams, Rod Fleeman, and Mike Metheny.

Interconnection is Mr. Sneider's third as leader, a follow-up to 2001's *Out Of The Darkness* (Sons of Sound SSPCD010), a recording that received four stars and the following review from David R. Adler in the *All Music Guide*: "Bob Sneider may not be widely known, but he's developed one of the most refreshingly original jazz guitar styles you're likely to hear. ...he displays a woody, acoustic tone reminiscent of Jim Hall, Martin Taylor, and John Pizzarelli. He possesses tremendous technical facility and a truly inventive vocabulary — odd intervallic combinations, timbres, and turns of phrase crop up everywhere, all in the service of an impeccable lyricism." Frank Rubolino of *Cadence* added: "...the guitarist plays with ringing clarity and a joyous nature." And, from Dr. Judith Schlesinger in *All About Jazz*: "Sneider is a classy player with a honeyed tone and smooth, melodic lines. ...like taking a springtime ride with the top down. ...pianist Hofmann [is] consistently first-rate."

In addition to Mr. Sneider's *Out Of The Darkness*, Mr. Sneider may also be heard on *Rodgers & Leonhart* by Jay Leonhart (Sons of Sound SSPCD015), a disc recorded in tribute to the Richard Rodgers Centennial in 2002. Mr. Hofmann has previously recorded ten discs for his own label, MHR Records.

Sons of Sound is an independent jazz label founded in 1997 to support musicians who support music education. Mr. Sneider is the professor of jazz guitar at the Eastman School of Music, where Mr. Hofmann is also on faculty. Mr. Sneider is also an annual participant in *Swing 'N Jazz*, a three-day celebration of music education with workshops, concerts, and a fund-raising golf tournament for the benefit of The Commission Project, a music education nonprofit in Rochester, NY.

For additional information see the label's web site at <http://sonsofsound.com/>. For more about The Commission Project, see <http://tcp-music.org/> and <http://swingnjazz.org/>.

#