



SONS OF SOUND RELEASES TWO NEW PROJECTS FROM GUITARIST BOB SNEIDER



***Escapade* explores the artistry of the jazz duo with pianist Paul Hofmann**

***Fallen Angel* explores the themes of film noir with vibraphonist Joe Locke**



New York, NY – Sons of Sound is proud to announce the February 21, 2006 release of two new recordings led by guitarist **Bob Sneider**: *Escapade*, a celebration of the jazz duet with pianist **Paul Hofmann**; and *Fallen Angel*, a collection of *film noir* themes interpreted with vibraphonist **Joe Locke** and supported by a group featuring Hofmann on piano, brother **John Sneider** on trumpet, tenor saxophonist **Grant Stewart**, bassist **Phil Flanigan**, and drummer **Mike Melito**.

Guitarist **Bob Sneider** is a two-time winner of the *DownBeat* Outstanding Performance in Jazz award who has performed with Chuck Mangione, Nat Adderley, Houston Person, Etta Jones, Lou Donaldson, Freddie Cole, Fred Wesley, Jay Leonhart, Keter Betts, and Jon Faddis. Sneider joined the faculty of the Eastman School of Music in 1979, where he is currently the Instructor of Jazz Guitar at the school and in the Jazz & Contemporary Media Department of Eastman's Community Music School. Bob also makes frequent appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Pops on guitar and banjo.

Escapade, with pianist **Paul Hofmann**, is the follow-up to *Interconnection*, an exploration of the jazz duet format released in 2004. The two men have been inspired by the classic recordings of Bill Evans and Jim Hall, the interplay of Nat “King” Cole and Oscar Moore, and the arrangement and execution of other great jazz pairings such as Chick Corea with Gary Burton and Stan Getz with Kenny Barron. In addition to tremendous instrumental technique, the two also apply their considerable arranging skills, equally important to the art form. In a tribute to Nat Cole and Oscar Moore, Sneider and Hofmann include a medley of three tunes from the famous duo along with nine originals and a nod to Rodgers & Hart. The disc concludes with improvisations on a theme of Alexander Scriabin arranged by Hofmann.

As to the duo's prior effort, Charles Winokoor wrote in *Cadence*: “The central key to the achievement of *Interconnection* is their unusual ability to realize seamless, unified execution.” In a four-star review for *All Music Guide*, Rick Anderson wrote: “Guitarist Bob Sneider and pianist

Paul Hofmann have a similar kind of chemistry to that demonstrated by Evans and Hall on their 1960s albums *Undercurrent* and *Intermodulation*, but their style is their own, and it comes out most clearly on their original compositions.” John Kelman wrote for *All About Jazz*: “The two are so relaxed together, so in each other’s pocket that they make the most convoluted motifs sound effortless.”

Fallen Angel, created in partnership with vibraphonist **Joe Locke**, is a thematic exploration of the connections between jazz music and *film noir*. The two share a seductive power that evokes shadows, rain-slicked streets, blinking neon signs and dimly lit rooms. A strange yet familiar world, like a memory of a life you never lived. Like *film noir*, jazz moves in a world whose meaning exists in a mood. *Fallen Angel* creates a darkly romantic one based on classic scores, and sets the extraordinary Bob Sneider/Joe Locke Septet loose to improvise around the themes. The program includes themes from the films “Farewell, My Lovely,” “Diva,” “The Russia House,” “Chinatown,” “Les Modernes,” “A Farewell To Maria,” and “Body Heat.” Dave Grusin’s “Hurricane Country” and the theme from “Mulholland Falls.” The title track from the record is courtesy of Mr. Locke, and Mr. Hofmann adds his own interpretation of the genre on “Last Kiss.”

New York-based **Joe Locke** is considered by many to be the most gifted vibraphonist of his generation. His international reputation as a player, composer, band leader and conceptualist has been further enhanced recently by his recent touring and recording projects, namely *4 Walls of Freedom* (voted one of the top ten CDs of 2003 by *DownBeat* magazine) and his work with the Joe Locke/Geoffrey Keezer Quartet, whose live performance at the Ballard Jazz Festival was awarded the *Earshot Jazz* 2005 Golden Ear Award as Concert of the Year. Locke’s recording “Re-velation”, a tribute to vibes master Milt Jackson, stayed at #1 on *JazzWeek*’s national radio chart for eight weeks from 2005 to 2006. A list of the artists with whom Joe has performed and recorded includes Eddie Henderson, Cecil Taylor, Kenny Barron, Ron Carter, Jimmy Scott, Rod Stewart, Hiram Bullock, Bob Berg and Jeff “Tain” Watts. He has twenty recordings as a band leader, and more than one hundred as a guest artist.

Rochester, NY-based pianist, composer and arranger **Paul Hofmann** has toured, recorded, or written music for Kevin Mahogany, Karrin Allyson, Ron Carter, Steve Gadd, Richie Cole, Ralph LaLama, and Mike Metheny.

Sons of Sound is an independent jazz label founded in 1997 with the goal of bringing jazz music and instrumental technique to a younger audience. The label supports music education through **The Commission Project**, a nonprofit based in Rochester, NY. Through TCP, Sons of Sound underwrites residencies at Princeton University, including Bob Mintzer in 2003-2004 and Jimmy Heath in 2004-2005.

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>.

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