

Question for June 29, 2013: What Do Children With Disabilities, the Odd Meters of Dave Brubeck, Rachmaninoff, Bill Evans, Cole Porter, The Gershwins, Irving Berlin, Jeff Bridges, Dave Grusin, The Middle East, The Star Spangled Banner, and Award Winning Minnesota Poetry Have In Common?

Answer: Larry McDonough compositions and arrangements from the “Solitude - poetry in jazz” CD, “Live at Minnesota Connection” DVD, and “Simple Gifts” CD, along with small ensemble versions of charts bassist Greg Stinson recorded with the Nova Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, all performed by the Larry McDonough Quartet

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Saturday, June 29, 7-9 pm
Twin Cities Jazz Festival
Black Bear Crossings on the Lake Stage
Como Lakeside Pavilion
1360 North Lexington Parkway
St. Paul
<http://blackbearcrossings.com/>.

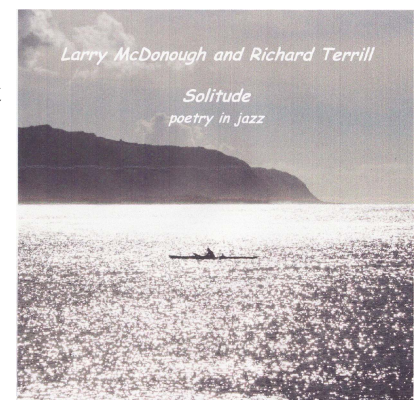
Larry McDonough Quartet
Larry McDonough, voice, piano, organ, Rhodes, synth, compositions, and arrangements
Richard Terrill, saxes, poetry, and lyrics
Greg Stinson, bass and compositions
Chaz Draper, drums

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Larry McDonough and Richard Terrill
Solitude - Poetry in Jazz CD (LM Jazz 2012)
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Solitude.html>

Solitude includes unique interpretations and odd-metered originals based on melody fragments by children with disabilities, including McDonough’s daughter Rosie; original poems by Minnesota Book Award winner and sax player Richard Terrill over variations on Rachmaninoff and Bill Evans; music from “The Fabulous Baker Boys;” Broadway standards “Night and Day,” “Someone to Watch Over Me,” and “Some Other Time;” international rhythms; and historical pieces.

Andrea Canter of JazzInk writes of Solitude, “In their decade-plus of musical collaboration, Larry McDonough and Richard Terrill have developed an artful empathy, played out in the gigs and recordings of the Larry McDonough Quartet and other ensembles. Pianist/vocalist/composer McDonough has generally assumed a leading role in these projects, with poet/saxophonist Terrill serving as a counterweight and harmonic partner. Solitude is their first project as an unadorned duo, the music stripped to its essence without external pulsetter and drive train. In such a spare sonic wonderland, the duo reconsider some past delights, mine gold in new arrangements and revel in new compositions. For Richard, music is poetry transformed in sound and rhythm; for Larry, melody is an auspicious starting point, time an endless playground. Together, theirs is a ‘solitude’ that evolves when two minds become one heart.”



David Cazares of Minnesota Public Radio adds, “When accomplished jazz musicians begin to compose new works of music, they might draw from a variety of influences, from classic songs and works of art to musings of children. Such is the wide stream of ideas that inspired pianist Larry McDonough and saxophonist and poet Richard Terrill on Solitude, a new recording of 11 tracks that springs from jazz standards, classical music, Minnesota poetry and children with disabilities.”

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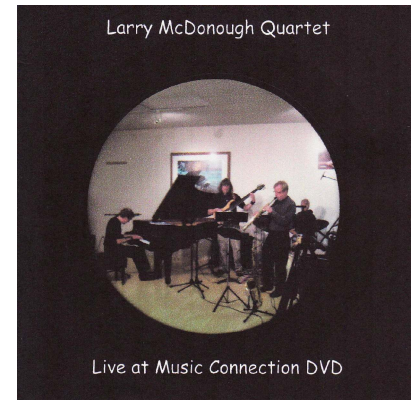
Larry McDonough Quartet

Live at Minnesota Connection DVD (LMJazz 2012)

<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/LiveatMusicConnection.html>

Live at Minnesota Connection is the first television performance of the Larry McDonough Quartet (LMQ), recorded by Baby Blue Arts, for viewing on public television stations around the country, and on line at

<http://www.babybluearts.com>. LMQ performs two pieces first released on their earlier Simple Gifts CD, two new ones penned by McDonough, and one holiday song.



The Dakota Jazz Club and Restaurant says:

“‘With a feathery touch that recalls Bill Evans but with more fingers and a unique approach to time that makes the most worn carol or standard a new adventure’ –Andrea Canter. One of the most unique voices in the local jazz scene, Larry McDonough is an exceptional pianistic talent. His original music and odd-meter versions of jazz standards have kept him in demand since the 1970s. McDonough scaled back his performing and recording in the 90s to raise a family and earn a law degree, and is now finding that perfect balance between work, family, and music. He has released several recordings with different ensembles over the past few years, and his live shows with his quartet are as transcendent as ever. ‘They play in a very open fashion where all you want to do is kick back, relax, and let the music take you away to a place untraveled.’ -John Book.”

<http://dakotacooks.com/event/larry-mcdonough-quartet-dvd-release/>

On Live at Minnesota Connection, LMQ performs:

- “Ode to Joy,” recorded on Simple Gifts, which McDonough arranged the Beethoven piece in the style of a Bill Evans waltz
- “A Rose for Two” from the Fingersteps Project, in which compositions are based on melodies written by children with disabilities with adaptive computer equipment, including McDonough’s daughter Rosie, with McDonough placing them over shifting minor harmonies and a 5/4 meter, with a free improvisational section in the middle of the piece
- “Lady Day” based on the Frank Reed poem about Billie Holiday thinking back over her career, first recorded on Simple Gifts, and sung by McDonough
- “Sirocco,” named for the hot east winds blowing from Northern Africa across the Mediterranean Sea to Southern Europe, in 7/4 time with 7 bar phrases
- “Angels We Have Heard on High,” in a rolling 7/4 time with Richard Terrill playing the melody on soprano at the beginning and McDonough singing on the way out.

Also included is the introduction by BBA host Laurie Patton, and her interview with McDonough about LMQ, and A Rosie for Two in particular.

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Larry McDonough Quartet
Simple Gifts CD (LMJazz 2005 and 2008)

<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/SimpleGifts.html>

LMQ released its first studio CD nationally in 2005 and internationally in 2008-09, charting #29 on the CMJ Jazz Chart while played on radio throughout the world.

Scott Yanow, LA Jazz Scene, writes: "Larry McDonough is an inventive pianist and an occasional singer based in Minnesota. On Simple Gifts he displays the desire and the talent to recast familiar songs in odd time signatures and make them work. Imagine hearing 'Red River Valley' in 7/4 time, Steely Dan's 'Aja' in 5/4 and 'My Favorite Things' (inspired by John Coltrane's famous versions) in 5/4. But there are other surprises to be heard throughout this quartet disc. 'Ode To Joy' sounds like a Bill Evans arrangement, 'They Can't Take That Away From Me' is sung with the rarely-heard verse which gives the tunes' words a completely different and a much more downbeat meaning, and a new Billie Holiday tribute piece ('Lady Day') is introduced. In addition, McDonough occasionally tosses in the most unlikely song quotes, but it is done tastefully and adds to the date's good feelings. Saxophonist Richard Terrill (mostly heard on tenor but also very good on soprano), bassist Craig Matarrese and drummer Chad Draper make for a tight but adventurous quartet with McDonough."

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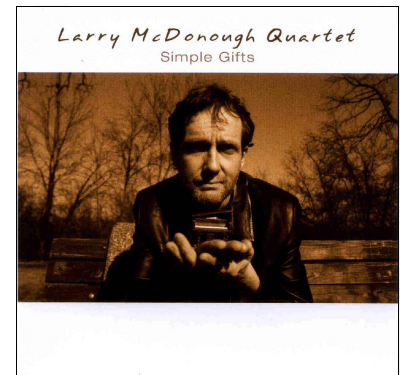
McDonough's previous recordings include

- My Favorite Things CD (music for high school orchestra, concert band and jazz ensembles)
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/MyFavoriteThings.html>
- Tuscarora: Short Stories for Jazz Piano CD (solo piano, dedicated to his late friend Senator Paul Wellstone and benefitting Wellstone Action)
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Tuscarora.html>
- Live, Cooking at the Dakota CD (Off Beat, the Larry McDonough Quintet)
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/OffBeatLiveLineNotes.html>
- Small Steps CD (solo piano)
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/SmallSteps.html>

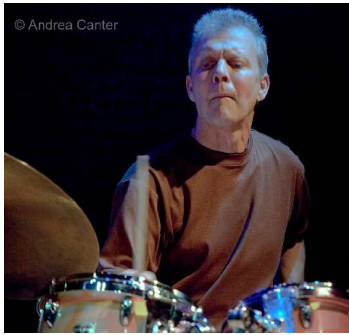
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Larry McDonough is a St. Paul jazz pianist and singer, performing around the world and recording with his group the Larry McDonough Quartet as well as solo, and in duos and trios. He has performed with legendary saxophonist and composer Benny Golson, Trombonist Fred Wesley, and trumpeter Duane Eubanks, as well as a who's who of local jazz artists, and was inducted into the Minnesota Rock Country Hall of Fame for his work in the group Danny's Reasons. He performs and records regularly with a host of Minnesota musicians, most recently the Nova Contemporary Jazz Orchestra and Guitarist Mike Solovich. McDonough composes and arranges music for school music programs, ranging from chamber groups to concert bands and jazz ensembles, focusing on exposing young musicians to jazz harmonies and rhythms, and uncommon time signatures. He also is a pro bono lawyer providing legal services to the poor at Dorsey & Whitney and law professor, selected by William Mitchell College of Law as one of "100 Who Made a Difference" over the 100 year history of the school. <http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Biography.html>

Sax player, lyricist, and Minnesota State University Mankato English Professor Richard Terrill received the



2004 Minnesota Book Award for Poetry, for his poetry compilation *Coming Late to Rachmaninoff* (University of Tampa Press, 2003). Terrill has been performing with Larry McDonough since December 2001. He also has performed with guitarist Jim McGuire and with Chaz Draper's Uptown Jazz Quartet. As a college student, Terrill was a member of the award winning University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Jazz Ensemble, and performed with later-to-be Pat Metheny keyboardist Lyle Mays in the Lyle Mays Quartet, winner of small group honors at the Midwest College Jazz Festival. He has also worked with pianist Geoff Keezer. He teaches creative writing at Minnesota State University, Mankato.
<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Dick.html>



Drummer Chaz Draper played his first professional gig in the sixties and has been playing ever since. Gigs have included touring and recording on four continents. He has recorded or performed with Freddie Frederick Orchestra, Joe Schultz, Mamie Van Doren, Michael Johnson, Lawrence Welk, Billy Preston, Free and Easy, Helen O'Connell, Billy Barber, Flynn Johnson, Aura, Myron Florin, Rise and Shine, Uptown Jazz Quartet, Mankato Symphony Orchestra, James Darren, Smokescreen, and the Minnesota State Band, and has taught at Minnesota State University Mankato and Bethany College. Andrea Canter, Jazz Police, said of him: "propulsive percussion that suggested the drum kit had suddenly doubled in size."

<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Chaz.html>

Bassist Greg Stinson plays in a number of bands around the Twin Cities. He has been the bass player in the Century College Jazz Ensemble for over 25 years. He also plays in the CC Septet, Shorn Hertz Quintet, Paul Berger Trio, the St. Croix Jazz Ensemble, and regularly subs with the Nova Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Classic Big Band, and Cedar Avenue Big Band. Stinson also spent many years playing saxophones, guitar, bass, and vocals in jazz/rock and variety bands in the area. Stinson is an active composer/arranger, with jazz charts in the books of the Century Band, Nova, CC Septet, and others. He has also written a number of choral arrangements and compositions for school and church groups. Stinson was a band and choir director in public and private schools before changing to his current career in telecommunications technology. LMQ performs Stinson compositions from the Nova Contemporary Jazz Orchestra recording "Dance to Be-bop."



<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Greg.html>

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"Bill Evans" from *Almost Dark*, by Richard Terrill (University of Tampa Press) read by Richard Terrill over Larry McDonough performing "Some Other Time" on the new CD "Solitude, poetry in jazz"

Should anyone ever fail
 this beautifully again,
 promise me

sending word--that someone
 once again
 hasn't wasted life

When he got into something
 he really got into it.
 It seems too much
 to deny a man
 slumped forehead to the keys
 and their impossible jagged line

your late conversion
 won't keep you
 from at least

on certainty.
 Heroin, counterpoint,
 Ravel, cocaine:

like black and white starlight,
his right arm limp with dead
nerves,
while the left hand turns out the
stars.

The shirt someone buttoned for
him,
cigarettes on spring days,

the background chatter that
wasn't there. Isn't.

How long it takes to die this
way
when it rains outside, and
within.
I suppose when the wind
behaves,

the waves take note.
I'll hear that someone
came through the revolving
door

again into
the shapeless dark
and began to play.

Solitude, Live at Minnesota Connection, and Simple Gifts are available at iTunes, CD Baby, and Larry
McDonough Jazz <http://www.larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com>

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