

December 15 Dakota Celebration of the International Release of “Simple Gifts”

<http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com>



Mix odd meter jazz, twisted holiday tunes, originals, Miles, Trane, Brubeck, Bill Evans, Chick, Sting, Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, Mr. Magoo, Charlie Brown, sprinkle in some free and funk, shaken and not stirred, and what do you get?

On December 15, 7-11 pm.

Celebration of the International Release of “Simple Gifts”

Larry McDonough Quartet

Pianist and singer Larry McDonough, Richard Terrill on Saxes,

Bassist Craig Matarrese, and Drummer Chaz Draper

Dakota Jazz Club and Restaurant, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 612-332-1010,

[www.DakotaCooks.com](http://www.DakotaCooks.com)

\$5 cover

Donations will be collected for Wellstone Action,

<http://www.wellstoneaction.org>

which carries on the work of late friends Paul and Sheila Wellstone.

“Simple Gifts” debuted on the CMJ Jazz Chart at #29, published in CMJ's New Music Report Magazine, Issue 1085, playing on more than 80 stations around the world.

National and international radio air play: <http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/Radio.html>

Reviews: <http://larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/ReviewsandArticlesonSimpleGifts.html>

Peter Kuller, Radio Adelaide - Australia [pkuller@comstech.com](mailto:pkuller@comstech.com)

“This was not a simple gift, it was a substantial gift! Larry McDonough is giving Beethoven, Gershwin, an Rogers & Hammerstein a whole new life. I just love it and will start playing from it in November. This music is indeed a gift, thank you very much!”

Joost Van Steen - Jazz & Blues Tour Radio - The Netherlands <http://www.jazzbluestour.nl/>

“What a great CD. Fantastic stuff! It will be a great pleasure will give this CD airplay.”

Mark Robinson Auckland New Zealand [www.georgefm.co.nz/jazz](http://www.georgefm.co.nz/jazz)

“It is a beautiful release and I will soon be play listing it on my jazz shows.”

Scott Yanow - LA Jazz Scene

“Larry McDonough is an inventive pianist .... 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. The highly enjoyable music is recommended ....”

Dick Metcalf - Zzaj Productions Improvijazzation Nation

“You'll not likely find a better gift than Larry's simple, yet enchanting, keyboard style .... This is one of the best keyboard-oriented CD's I've heard this year, & in addition to a most highly recommended rating, it also gets the ‘pick’ of this issue for ‘most sophisticated keyboard jazz!’”

Chris Spector - Midwest Record - [www.midwestrecord.com](http://www.midwestrecord.com)

“Solid jazz piano man that serves it up in fine form.”

Andrea Canter, Jazz Police

“Larry McDonough’s long-awaited new recording serves up divergent delights, from a reconstructed holiday chestnut to inside-out renditions of jazz standards, from harmonically and rhythmically altered traditional melodies to a trio of original tunes. 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, *Simple Gifts* proves to be anything but “simple”—but, for those fortunate enough to hear this music, it is indeed a gift.”

“Simple Gifts” represents the range of material performed by the Larry McDonough Quartet:

- odd meters (Simple Gifts and Dame la Mano in 7, Aja and My Favorite Things in 5, and Ode to Joy and They Can’t Take That Away from Me in 3)
- music based on melodies written by children with disabilities, including Larry daughter Rosie, through the Fingersteps Program, <http://www.fingersteps.org>, developed by Dan Moffatt (Elie’s Theme)
- other originals (Tuscarora and Lady Day)
- vocals (Simple Gifts, Lady Day, and They Can’t Take That Away from Me),
- reharmonization of pieces of faith (Simple Gifts and Ode to Joy)
- Broadway revisited (My Favorite Things and They Can’t Take That Away from Me)
- smooth (Aja and Elie’s Theme), and

- avant garde (My Favorite Things)

There are sound clips at

<http://www.larrymcdonoughjazz.homestead.com/SimpleGiftsCredits.html>

Larry McDonough has performed with legendary saxophonist and composer Benny Golson, Trombonist Fred Wesley, and trumpeter Duane Eubanks, as well as a who's who of Minneapolis and St. Paul jazz artists. Sax player 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). The quartet is rounded out by bassist, Mingus stylist and Minnesota State University Mankato Philosophy Professor Craig Matarrese, and drummer Chaz Draper ("propulsive percussion that suggested the drum kit had suddenly doubled in size" - Andrea Canter, Jazz Police).

McDonoughs other CDs include:

- "Tuscarora: Short Stories for Jazz Piano," solo piano and voice, dedicated to the memory of Paul and Sheila Wellstone and benefits Wellstone Action, playing from around the country, and from Australia to the Netherlands. It includes original music, as well as arrangements of jazz, popular, religious, and historical music in different times signatures and harmonies, such as "Amazing Grace" and "My Favorite Things" in 5/4, and "We Shall Overcome" (with vocals) and "Star Spangled Banner" as jazz ballads. "Contemplative, but with a certain intensity that kept my ears perked. Larry's touch and choice of harmonies reminds me of standing outside on a clear, cold night and looking up at the stars." John Ziegler, KUMD Radio Program and Music Director.
- Larry McDonough and Off Beat, "Live, Cooking at the Dakota." McDonough and his first group, Off Beat's maiden voyage was broadcast live on Cooking at the Dakota on Jazz88, KBEM 88.5 FM Radio on July 30, 2001. Selections include Cantaloupe Island in 7/4 (Hancock), Small Steps (McDonough), Adagio for Strings (Barber), Linus and Lucy (Guaraldi), and Take the 5A Train in 5/4 (Ellington). "Some very cool music.... 'Off beat jazz classics,' just 4/4 music isn't good enough for [McDonough].... 5/4 and 7/4 ... have fun with it.... I love this 5/4 ['Take the 5A Train']. Do some more!" Lou Harvin, TPT Public Television.
- "Small Steps," McDonough's first CD of solo piano jazz, includes unique arrangements of jazz classics (Miles Davis' "All Blues", Chick Corea's "Crystal Silence," and "Nature Boy", first performed by Nat King Cole and later George Benson), pop classics ("Linus and Lucy", Eric Clapton's "Layla", and The Beatles' "Good Day Sunshine"), as well as original pieces "Small Steps" and "Coreatown." "Wonderful, Herbie Hancock-Bill Evan-ish," Leigh Kamman, The Jazz Image. "He also exhibits echoes of McCoy Tyner ala My Favorite Things when Tyner was working with John Coltrane." T. Alexander, Pulse Of The Twin Cities.
- "My Favorite Things: Odd Times for Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra and Concert Band," a

compilation of performances of McDonough's original pieces and arrangements of jazz for high school jazz ensemble, orchestra, and concert band.

Larry McDonough Jazz

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