



Roy Haynes Fountain of Youth Band August 2008

Roy Haynes – drums
Jaleel Shaw – saxophone
David Wong – bass
David Kikoski – piano

Roy Haynes

Thelonious Monk once described **Roy Haynes'** drumming as "an eight ball right in the side pocket." Jack DeJohnette calls Roy's percolations "a rare combination of street education, high sophistication and soul." Pat Metheny says Haynes is the "father of modern drumming" and "a national treasure." Lester Young summed up Haynes' genius best perhaps when the two shared a bandstand in October, 1947, exclaiming, "Haynes, you sure are swinging!" For over 50 years Roy Haynes has influenced and innovated, shaping some of the greatest recordings in jazz while altering the very fabric and direction of jazz improvisation with his mercurial, intelligent, joyous drumming. Freeing jazz's borders, infusing its lifeblood, steering it towards greater freedom and more distinctive expression, Roy Haynes is a national treasure who continues to forge new paths well into his '70s, dumbfounding jazz lovers, not to mention Father Time and Mother Nature.

Who else can claim residencies with Louis Armstrong, Lester Young, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Sarah Vaughan, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, Lennie Tristano, Stan Getz, Chick Corea and Pat Metheny? "It is weird isn't it?" Haynes muses. "It is amazing for me, turning 79 as I am. I couldn't see this far in advance that I would be still playing at my age. I'm constantly getting calls for record dates, I don't know what the hell it is. I like to do my own thing where I can play anything I want to play, interpreting it my own way. Years ago, when I was playing with other people, my job was to make them feel good. When I stopped doing that it seemed like I got more attention - my own concept came out."

Calling his music "hard swing," Haynes has recently led a series of groups such as appeared on 2001's BIRDS OF A FEATHER (Dave Holland, Roy Hargrove, Kenny Garrett) and 2003's LOVE LETTERS (Holland, Kenny Barron, Scofield, Joshua Redman). Add to that short list of explosive, inspired outings this live recording from New York's Birdland titled FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH which bows on Dreyfus Jazz February 24. With his 20-something band of Martin Bejerano (piano), Marcus Strickland (tenor and soprano saxophone and bass clarinet), and John Sullivan (bass), Roy Haynes is influencing the next generation just as he has those of the past.

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Recorded in December, 2002, FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH is reverential, explosive, an celebratory, exploring music Haynes has included in his sets for years with a handful of new additions chosen by the group. Haynes happily admits that this group catches fire often, obviously following his lead. Selections by Monk, Metheny, Oliver Nelson, and Irving Berlin provide tremendous give and take, fireworks on full display.

"I have recorded a few of the tunes before but I wanted to perform them again, documenting this great band," Haynes explains. "Recording live you can really capture some magic moments, and there are plenty here. 'Question and Answer' has some great stuff in the vamp when I am playing accents with the bass drum and the cymbals. On 'Green Chimneys,' where I stop and the horn and piano play solo, and we come back in - that is some wild stuff. The crowd at Birdland really digs it."

On the second night of recording, the group had additional inspiration from an unlikely source -- a major snowstorm blanketed the East Coast! When news of the storm came in that morning, the producers worried that the heavy weather would mean a small turn-out. At the last moment, word was circulated inviting some lucky New York jazz fans to attend the show for free. As a result, the audience was jam packed with an unusually high concentration of young people and musicians. The enthusiasm of the audience is evident throughout this electrifying recording.

Working with this younger group when not touring with Birds Of A Feather, Haynes says the musicians found him, not the other way around. "Strickland was playing with Milt Jackson's big band, he came up to me at the Blue Note and told me he wanted to play with me. I hired him a year later when the opportunity arose, and he recommended the other guys, John Sullivan and Martin Bejerano. They have played with me for the last three summers and the audiences love it everywhere we go."

The connection between master and students is beyond notions of age or deference. The quartet meet in a musical space that is timeless, Haynes elevating the musicians' performances; matching their fire stroke for stroke, thrill for thrill.

There is an affinity that happens between us that you can't find with just anybody." FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH opens with "Greensleeves." An homage to Coltrane perhaps, but the group strikes it anew with an emotive, clamoring energy. The album includes a triptych of Monk standards, "Twinkle Trinkle," "Ask Me Now," and "Green Chimneys," the songs' zigzagging logic providing some eruptive and forceful improvisations.

"The way I do the Monk songs is definitely different," Haynes says. "We cut out certain bars in 'Twinkle Trinkle,' for instance, and add a lot of different accents. I don't like to give all the details. We rearrange the music, almost treat them as if they were my tunes. 'Green Chimneys' as well." Oliver Nelson's "Butch and Butch," which Haynes recorded with the saxophonist/arranger for his 1961 classic, BLUES AND THE ABSTRACT TRUTH, is an airy, dynamic performance, allowing a breather from the febrile, feverish land of Monk. Where Strickland and Bejerano wowed the winter's eve crowd on earlier tracks, here Sullivan solos (short and sweet) with a sense of assurance belying his youth. The ballad "Inner Trust," by longtime Haynes' pianist Dave Kikoski follows, though the drummer's triumphal approach is more like a whirlwind than a pool of reflection. A funky street march opens the darting lines of "Green Chimneys" before the group launches it on a dazzling ride of interlocking jabs, singular shouts and gospel worthy exclamations. After a lush reading of Berlin's "Remember," FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH closes with Pat Metheny's "Question and Answer."

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"I played on the original QUESTION AND ANSWER album with Metheny and Dave Holland back in '89," Roy recalls. "I like that melody; it really knocks me out. I like a lot of Pat's writing."

Roy Haynes' perennial focus on the music has not only led to a cherished spot among jazz fans and musicians, but to a mantel full of much deserved awards. Along with honorary doctorates from Berklee and the New England Conservatory, Haynes picked up the JAZZPAR prize in '94, the French Chevalier des l'Ordres Artes et des Letters in '96, Zildjian's American Drummer's Achievement Award in '98, and the PAS Hall of Fame Award. And as in years past, Haynes recently topped the 2003 Downbeat Critic's Poll and Reader's Poll. But for a musician whose gifts have only slowly become recognized as innovations and continual inspiration, Roy Haynes remains an almost shy man concerned more with his music than reaping accolades. "Chan [Parker] used to tell me that I was Bird's favorite drummer. He would never tell me what he liked about my playing but years later I figured it out. I had that swing thing. I had that thing on the cymbal, that swing we called it in the old days, it wasn't just a word, it had a meaning back when Bebop was new. My way of doing it was right in the pocket. That is what kept me out there."

With FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, Roy Haynes is still right in the pocket, leading the charge.

Jaleel Shaw

Jaleel Shaw, alto saxophonist, has performed with such world class artists as Clark Terry, Roy Hargrove, Christian McBride, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Arturo Sandoval, Nicholas Payton, the Village Vanguard Orchestra, and the Count Basie Orchestra. He is currently a member of the Charles Mingus Big Band, the JazzReach education group, and performs in various clubs in New York City and abroad with various groups, including the Jaleel Shaw Quintet.

Jaleel grew up in Philadelphia, PA, where he studied with saxophonist Rayburn Wright, Robert Landham, and jazz instructor Lovette Hines, whose students have included Christian McBride and Joey DeFrancesco.

He also had many mentors in Philadelphia, including John Blake, Byard Lancaster, Alfie Pollit, and Grover Washington Jr. Jaleel attended the High School for Creative & Performing Arts and later transferred and graduated from George Washington High School.

Upon graduating from high school, he received a full tuition scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. Jaleel attended Berklee for four years and earned a dual degree in Music Education and Performance in 2000. While attending Berklee, he received the Billboard Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Academic and Musical achievement (1998), two Woodwind Dept. Chair Awards, The Outstanding Student Teacher Award, and The Boston Jazz Society Award (1999).

Upon graduating from Berklee, Jaleel received a scholarship to attend the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he received his Masters in Jazz Performance in May, 2002. He was also a finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition that year. Jaleel has performed internationally in Australia, China, London, Paris, Italy, Finland, Africa, Scotland, Amsterdam, Austria, Spain, and Portugal, as well as many cities in the U.S.

He can be heard on recent recordings from the Mingus Big Band, The Either Orchestra, The Count Basie Big Band, and Jeremy Pelt Quartet. Jaleel joined Temple University as a part

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time instructor in fall 2003, and currently performs with the Mingus Big Band and with the Jaleel Shaw Quintet.

He recorded his first Album for the Fresh Sound in February of 2004.

David Wong

Bassist **David Wong** was born and raised in New York City. In 2004, he graduated from the Julliard School in classical music. He has studied with Orin O'Brien (New York Philharmonic), Ron Carter, Ben Wolfe, and John Clayton. For the past two years as part of the Eric Reed Trio, Mr. Wong has performed in Switzerland, Scotland, the Hollywood Bowl (Los Angeles), the Algonquin Hotel (New York City), and with Jazz at Lincoln Center and many other venues worldwide. He has also performed with Wynton Marsalis, John Fadis, Illinois Jacquet, Christian McBride, Leroy Jenkins, Paula West, and Mark Gould (Metropolitan Opera) to name just a few.

David Kikoski

At a time when jazz has been to the far reaches of the musical universe and back, some would say that its all been played before and we're currently at a point in the cyclical nature of this art form when those with lesser talents are merely rewriting the past.

Possibly this is why innovation and individualism are so rare these days and why David Kikoski stands apart from the scores of pianists who currently make their home within the mainstream tradition. Born in 1961, Dave was part of a musical family and given his first piano lessons at the age of six by his father. In his early teens he began working with jazz and rock groups and won "The New Jersey Allstate Jazz Competition ". After high school, Kikoski would head to the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston where he earned a bachelor's degree in piano. While at school he had a steady trio gig and met Pat Metheny who sat in with the band. A few years later they would record a CD together with Roy Haynes.

In 1984, the pianist decided to try his hand in New York where it didn't take long for him to establish himself.

Drummer Roy Haynes would be the first to give Kikoski a break, leading to a productive association that lasts to this day.

During his first few years on the New York scene, the pianist took advantage of the Haynes gig to network with other musicians leading to a wealth of recording opportunities and touring with Randy Brecker, Joe Henderson, Ron Carter, Al Foster, Buster Williams and Bob Berg among others. By 1989, Dave was ready to cut his first record as a leader.

"Presage" featured a high-octane trio with bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer Al Foster. His second outing "Persistant Dreams" was produced by Walter Becker of Steely Dan fame featured a larger ensemble including Randy Brecker and Billy Hart. During the early 90s, Kikoski not only kept busy playing frequent gigs with Roy Haynes, Randy Brecker and others but was also featured as a regular in the group of saxophonist Bob Berg and produced and arranged his CD "Another Standard" for Chick Corea's Stretch label. He freelanced and led his own groups at home and abroad.

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In 1994, a contract with the short-lived Sony Epicure label produced the self-titled Dave Kikoski, a trio set that found the pianist in the company of bassist Essiet Essiet and drummer Al Foster. Over the next few years, Kikoski would perform and record as a sideman with an enviable cast of jazz luminaries including John Scofield, Brian Lynch, Peter Erskine, Red Rodney, Ravi Coltrane, Chris Potter, Christian McBride, Joe Henderson, Joey Baron, Dave Holland, Mike Stern, Chick Corea, Toots Thielemans, Pat Metheny, Victor Lewis, Tom Harrell, Gary Thomas, Marcus Miller, the Mingus Big Band and Michael Brecker.

Since 1997, Kikoski has had a chance to further document his artistic growth in a series of releases for the Dutch Criss Cross label. " Inner Trust" from 1997, spotlighted the work of fellow Roy Haynes bandmate bassist Ed Howard (also on "Persistant Dreams") and drummer Leon Parker. "The Maze" reunited Dave with drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts as well as " Mingus Big Band " partner saxophonist Shamus Blake and Scott Colley on Bass.

His next release "Almost Twilight" offered the musical benefits that come with a working band, as Kikoski joined forces with bassist John Patitucci and drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts for a week at "Sweet Basils" before cutting the CD. In 2001 Roy Haynes invited Dave to join his new all-star lineup including Dave Hollland, Roy Hardgrove and Kenny Garrett to record and tour.

The CD received a Grammy nomination. They are still performing and the live shows often feature Nicholas Payton and Christian McBride as well.. Another project of Dave's with percussionist Brian Melvin entitled "BeatleJazz" topping the Gavin radio charts with both volumes. Among tours to Japan and Russia with his own trios, during the summer of 2001, Dave spent time touring with the Brecker Brothers' Acoustic Band.

The fall of 2001 Kikoski celebrated the release of his fourth set as a leader for Criss Cross. "Surf's Up " gives him space to romp through a diverse set of tunes covering everything from Brazilian sambas to pop classics by Frank Zappa and Brian Wilson.

In 2002 Dave toured Japan and recorded two CDs for the DIW label and another for Criss Cross entitled "Combinations". The summer festivals of 2003 were spent with the "Randy Brecker, Bill Evans Soul Bop Band with special guest Ronny Cuber".

In August Kikoski played the Mt.Fuji Jazz Festival with the "Brecker Brothers Band".

He continues to perform with a variety of different bands as well as his own projects. The latest "BeatleJazz" (2004) "With a little help from our friends" includes guests Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker and John Scofield with electric keyboards and tablas. David's 2004 release " Details" features Bill Stewart on drums and Larry Grenadier on bass.

David Kikoski continues to foster his individualistic voice while exploring a wide variety of opportunities both as a leader and sideman. He especially wants to emphasize his compositions, further develop opportunities to perform with his own groups, and write for films. An affecting modernist, Kikoski distills the best in jazz and popular music and infuses every song with attention-getting brilliance.