

THE NEW STANDARDS

Bio version 1

Started in 2005 as an off-shoot project between Minneapolis-based musicians and friends, The New Standards has grown into a globe-spanning adventure, filling theaters and clubs around the world, spawning several CDs, videos, cartoons, dance/theater projects, and ancillary gewgaws that have charmed and delighted an ever-multiplying legion of faithful fans. The three core members of The New Standards all come from illustrious Twin Cities bands. **Chan Poling** founded the seminal Punk/New Wave band The Suburbs. **John Munson** was an original member of Trip Shakespeare and the chart-topping Semisonic. **Steve Roehm** started on drums in the Texas punk outfit Billygoat and the avant-jazz Electropolis. Sensing a lack of an interesting jazz trio repertoire beyond the usual “old standards”, they got together originally to play and sing their favorite songs – from every era, particularly post 1960’s pop music - in a stripped-down acoustic setting, making room for solos and arrangements with the freedom of jazz, and yet never fully abandoning the modest soul of pop and rock.

Bio version 2

Minnesota stalwarts The New Standards create an intriguing blend of everything from classic cabaret to punk rock, from the freedom of jazz, to the soul of pop and rock. They make it work through sheer musicianship and offbeat humor. The instrumentation is simple: **John Munson** of Trip Shakespeare/Semisonic fame on bass; **Chan Poling**, founder of the new-wave group The Suburbs on piano; and **Steve Roehm** on vibes. Chan and John split the singing. If that's not enough, a footstomp here, a shout-out, a fiery solo, and it's cooked. Simple, elegant, illuminating. "As a trio, they have made a practice of dressing up punk and pop classics - "I Will Dare" by the Replacements gets a place in the pantheon - in jazz arrangements that overlay piano, upright bass and vibraphone...The DNA of the band and its members has its feet firmly rooted into punk/pop culture." - NY Times

Bio version 3

The New Standards—led by Twin Cities musicians and raconteurs **Chan Poling** (The Suburbs) on piano, bassist **John Munson** (Trip Shakespeare, Semisonic), and **Steve Roehm** (Billygoat, Electropolis) on vibraphone— formed in 2005 to play and sing their favorite songs in a stripped-down, acoustic setting. Just as mid-century American jazz musicians reimagined “old standards,” The New Standards create jazz arrangements of recognizable hits and deep tracks alike, drawn from diverse musical genres ranging from pop, glam and soul, to rock and roll. Their repertoire spans several decades and includes songs from Dan Hicks to David Byrne, Bowie to Beck. Their music makes room for solos and arrangements with the freedom of jazz, and yet never fully abandons the modest soul of pop and rock. In addition to the music, John and Chan are top- notch banterers who like to think (and audiences tend to agree) that they are very funny.