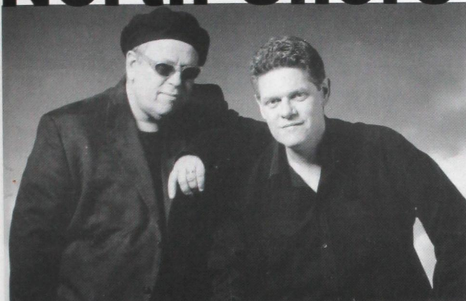


North Shore Jazz



North Shore Jazz returns this year with another selection of diverse and eclectic artists sure to suit everyone's musical tastes. From African rhythms to acoustic blues and soul; from Dixieland to contemporary jazz – throw in some classic Tango and gypsy, guitar swing music – and *North Shore Jazz* has something for all music enthusiasts. Far be it for *North Shore Jazz* to confine it's programming to strictly jazz. Jazz Festivals, world-wide, are certainly defining "jazz" as an umbrella term which can showcase a diversity of non-commercial music including world, soul, gospel, blues, and folk/roots.

What has typified and characterized *North Shore Jazz* is not just diversity in musical genres, but the melding and collaboration between artists often from different musical backgrounds. And the tradition continues this year with a collaborative venture involving New York-based pianist Kenny Werner, Montreal-based alto saxophonist, Rémi Bolduc and The Marois Vocal Project featuring four local vocalists from NiteCap, Cap College's premier vocal student ensemble under the direction of Réjean Marois. Combine a jazz master like Kenny with a rising jazz star like Rémi, mix in some emerging talented vocalists and you have a feast.

Kenny Werner is no stranger to Cap Theatre's stage. His first appearance was in the *Cap Jazz Series* in 1999 with "A" Band and NiteCap. Werner was very impressed with NiteCap director Rejean Marois's fine vocal arrangements of his instrumental work. It is indeed a rarity for an instrumentalist to hear their work sung to them. This year the collaborative deck is shuffled again and Kenny will perform in a duo format with Rémi Bolduc. In addition, the Marois Vocal Project will spice up the duo as special guests for the evening.

Why Werner/Bolduc? This isn't a random pairing. The duo recently released a recording together on Justin Time Label entitled *Tchat*. Marc Chenard of Montreal writes in the liner notes on the recording:

"Always fresh and spontaneous in its exchange, the duo of Rémi Bolduc and Kenny Werner breaks down the usual barriers separating solo and accompanying instruments. Not only are these kindred spirits able enough to re-harmonize tunes at will, but they can also turn on a dime and launch into mellifluous cadenzas that are rhythmically fluid yet never out of bounds."



Certain words from this quote ring true in defining the nature of collaboration: "fresh," "spontaneous" and "musical conversations." The Village Voice wrote of Kenny Werner's brilliance as an improviser: "... an ebullient stylist... his solos start evenhandedly and become woolly rides into the darkness." The unpredictability is certainly a key to the uniqueness of these collaborative jazz performances. You just never know where the journey is going to take you – there is no map, it is being written in the moment.

Kenny Werner has developed a style all his own. Throughout the '80s and '90s he played with a variety of jazz greats from John Abercrombie and Joe Henderson to Dave Holland and Jack DeJohnette. One of his strongest alliances was with saxophonist Joe Lovano, with whom he recorded several albums. Kenny produced a series of acclaimed recordings including a sensational solo album called *Live at Maybeck Hall* (Concord) which is considered a bellwether for contemporary pianists.

Montreal-based alto saxophonist Rémi Bolduc honed his craft with well-known artists such as Vic Vogel, Rene Lussier, and Lorraine Desmarais. A passionate and sophisticated improviser, Bolduc's power-packed CD, *Renaissance* (Efenidi), reveals a mature artist delivering everything from scorching solos to elegant jazz.

Together the duo of Werner/Bolduc coupled with The Marois Vocal Project should make for an interesting night of musical synergies and interesting rapport.

Werner & Bolduc perform Friday, July 2nd at the Capilano College Performing Arts Theatre. See the calendar (pages 12, 13) for other *North Shore Jazz* concerts running June 25 – July 4. Or check the Jazz hotline: 604.872.5200 / www.coastaljazz.ca



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