

DAVID BRAID SEXTET

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID BRAID, piano

STEVE WALLACE, bass

TERRY CLARKE, drums

JOHN MacLEOD, flugelhorn

MIKE MURLEY, saxophone

GENE SMITH, trombone

"a combination of intelligence and abandon; music making of the highest caliber" - All About Jazz

*"already secure in the senior ranks of jazz pianists... Braid the player, writer, arranger and bandleader is clearly a force to be reckoned with."
~ The Toronto Star*

DAVID BRAID has been touted as one of the most gifted young pianists and composers in Canada. A winner and recipient, Braid is in demand for a variety of projects and has performed extensively across Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan and other parts of Asia.



David Braid *piano*

Braid graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Toronto in 1998 and was nominated for the Governor General's Academic Medal. The same year, Braid was a semi-finalist in the Concours Internationaux de Piano Jazz in Paris, France.

Canadian audiences and critics have boasted about the David Braid Sextet as a musical ensemble that exports a compelling statement about the sophisticated jazz talent percolating in Canada. This touring ensemble has exclusively performed Braid's compositions since its inception in 2000, with each composition crafted by Braid to expose the unique talents in his ensemble, that is: Terry Clarke, drums; Steve Wallace, bass; Mike Murley, saxophone; Gene Smith, trombone; and John MacLeod, flugelhorn. Their recent recording, VIVID, won the 2005 Juno Award for Best Traditional Jazz Album. Braid's first sextet CD struck internationally acclaimed jazz author Gene Lees who said: "If Bill Evans were alive, I'd send [Braid's] CD to him." This ensemble is due to release their third CD, which was the last recording made before the closing of one of Canada's most prestigious jazz venues, The Top 'O the Senator in Toronto.

*"Hearing the David Braid Sextet proved their world-class mettle."
- Jack Chambers, author of "The Music and Times of Miles Davis."*

BRAID also co-leads a group with multi-Juno award winner Mike Murley. The Murley-Braid Quartet (with Toronto bassist Jim Vivian on bass, and New York drummer Ian Froman) released their debut CD, "Mnemosyne's March," on Cornerstone Records in March 2006.

"The playing is assured, quietly intense, wonderfully imaginative, intricately propulsive — they make complexity sound so easy, proof of the ultra-high standards achieved.

- The Toronto Star

With a solid interest in composition, Braid's first commission was from the Global Knowledge Foundation, to compose and perform a piece for Dr. Stephen Hawking,

"He [Hawking] loved David Braid's hauntingly beautiful jazz composition..."

- Globe & Mail

Thirty-one-year-old Braid has written over fifty works and recently unveiled his first orchestral piece with the Winnipeg Symphony, which blended jazz form, symphonic composition and improvisation. Braid is currently writing a suite for jazz sextet and orchestra to be premiered in 2007. Braid is also exploring his interest in hybrid jazz forms through a new unique collaboration with jazz cellist and composer, Matt Brubeck. This ensemble will release their first recording in late 2006.

Braid has earned his reputation for reinventing himself by partaking in new musical projects. One such invention is a new duet with a musical partner 53 years his senior: Phil Nimmons, affectionately known as the Dean of Canadian Jazz. Two compositionally minded individuals have collaborated to create a blend of free jazz, spontaneously crafted from refreshing amounts of melody and form. This duo will make one-time appearance at the Canadian jazz festivals in 2006 to promote their new debut CD "Beginnings."

Additionally, 'Nehring, Koller & Braid,' is an exploratory trio with bassist George Koller and directed by drummer, Lorne Nehring. Their first release 'What's Held in Common' (Toronto Sound) was voted #8 on best recordings released in 2002 by JAZZ.FM91. This group released their second recording in 2005, "Set In Stone," on the Effendi label which is a series of improvisations based on themes by late, Canadian trumpeter and composer, Fred Stone.

Aside from performing and composing, Braid is on faculty at the University of Toronto.

Bassist **STEVE WALLACE** was born in 1956 in Toronto and began working with many jazz greats in clubs such as Bourbon St., Lytes, and George's while still in his early twenties. The list includes Clark Terry, Sweets Edison, Lockjaw Davis, George Coleman, Zoot Sims, and Pepper Adams to name a few. He has also recorded and toured internationally with some of the biggest names in Canadian jazz including Fraser MacPherson, Rob McConnell's Boss Brass, Oscar Peterson, and Oliver Jones.



Steve Wallace *bass*

In 1982 Wallace became associated with the Concord Jazz label and recorded albums as a sideman with Rosemary Clooney, Ed Bickert, and Mel Torme, among others. In 1985 he replaced ailing bassist George Duvivier to tour Europe, Japan, and Australia with Woody Herman's All Stars, a group that included Al Cohn, Buddy Tate, Urbie Green, John Bunch, and Jake Hanna. Currently Wallace maintains a busy playing schedule with such Toronto groups as the Barry Elmes Quintet, Rob McConnell's Tentet, David Braid Sextet, and the Sam Noto Quintet.



Terry Clarke *drums*

Drummer **TERRY CLARKE** was born on August 20, 1944 in Vancouver. Clarke got his first drum set on his twelfth birthday, and studied for the next five years with Jim Blackley, author of *Drumming*, a noted drum method.

In 1965 Clarke moved to San Francisco to work with John Handy III and recorded the award-winning album *John Handy* with John Handy for Columbia Records.

In 1968 Terry joined *The Jazztet* and toured extensively with them until 1970. For the next fifteen years Terry was Toronto's first-call drummer, active in jazz, jingles, TV, and pop. He toured with Jim Hall and Oscar Peterson, and began his long association with the world-acclaimed Rob McConnell's Boss Brass. In 1985 Clarke moved to New York and worked with such artists as Toshiko Akiyoshi, Jim Hall, Helen Merrill, Jay Leonhart, and Roger Kellaway. Terry's discography includes over 200 albums with artists such as Jim Hall, Oscar Peterson, Rob McConnell, the Singers Unlimited, Frank Rosolino, Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra featuring Freddie Hubbard and Lew Tabackin, Jay McShann, Buddy Tate, Emily Remler, John Handy, Ed Bickert, Helen Merrill, and Roger Kellaway.

Trumpeter **JOHN MACLEOD** was born in Toronto in 1955. He took his formal musical training at Humber College where he was the recipient of the music department's award for outstanding jazz improvisation in 1975.

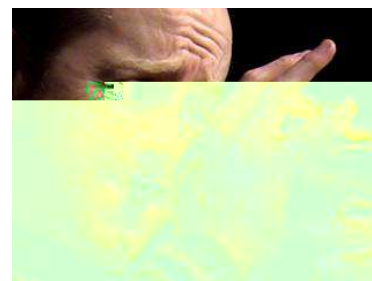
Although his primary interest has always been in jazz performance, over the course of a twenty year career MacLeod has been involved in almost every area of the Canadian music industry. He has worked extensively in live theatre and as a backup musician for visiting entertainers such as Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson and Linda Ronstadt. As an active studio musician, he has performed on soundtracks for feature films and television, as well as countless commercial jingles for radio and television.

As a freelance jazz artist, MacLeod has performed with virtually every major figure on the Toronto scene, as well as such visiting players as Zoot Sims, Kenny Wheeler, John Abercrombie, Phil Woods and Maynard Ferguson. In addition to leading his own group, which has appeared at all the major jazz festivals across Canada, he is currently a member of the Duncan Hopkins Quintet and the Mike Murley Quintet, with whom he has recorded and toured with extensively. He is also a long time member of such permanent groups as the Spitfire Band and the world renowned Rob McConnell and Boss Brass. Of the dozens of jazz recordings he has performed on, there have been numerous Juno and Grammy Award winners.

In the mid 1980s MacLeod opened and operated a small recording studio catering exclusively to jazz music and became well known in jazz circles for his engineering and production skills. He recorded hundreds of sessions and over forty albums and CD's including two Juno awards for jazz albums of the year.

In 1986 he released his own album entitled "RUIN" on the co-operative label UNITY RECORDS he helped form and with whom he served as chairman of the board for many years.

During the 90's MacLeod's focus has shifted away from recording and towards arranging and composing. He has become the main writer for a Toronto area big band known as Freeflight (which released its first CD early in 1997) and his charts are being performed by student bands at McGill, Queens, and the University of Toronto, and Mohawk and Humber College. He has studied with Ron Collier, Rob McConnell and Kenny Wheeler, and was a recipient of a Toronto Arts Council Award for composition.



John MacLeod *trumpet*



Mike Murley *saxophone*

Saxophonist **MIKE MURLEY** has emerged as one of Canada's finest jazz artists since moving to Toronto from his native Nova Scotia in 1981. He has appeared on six Juno Award winning jazz albums in the 1990s, including his own *Two Sides* (1991), one of five critically acclaimed recordings that Murley has released as a leader. His latest, *Conversation Piece*, received the 1997 Jazz Report Award for best jazz album. He was also named Tenor Saxophonist of the Year at the Jazz Report Awards in 1998, '97, '95, and '93.

Murley's playing experience on the international level includes performances with a diverse cross-section of artists including Kenny Wheeler, Randy Brecker, Jack McDuff and Doctor John. His recording credits include sessions with John Abercrombie, Paul Bley, Ed Bickert, and Sonny Greenwich.

He has appeared as a featured soloist on three different CDs with trumpeter/composer Wheeler, including the latest *Maritime Jazz Orchestra* CD featuring John Taylor's *Azimuth*. In addition, Murley has worked with some of the most well-respected New York musicians of his generation including trumpeter Dave Douglas, pianist Rene Rosnes, and drummer Bill Stewart.

Murley has performed and recorded with numerous Canadian artists including Rob McConnell, Time Warp, the Barry Elmes Quintet, and Juno Award winners Metalwood ('99 and '98), Joe Sealy ('97), NOJO ('96), Brian Dickinson ('92) and David Braid ('05). His work as a sideman has taken him to festivals and clubs in Europe, South America, and Asia. As a leader, Murley has played all of the major Canadian jazz festivals and performed high profile international engagements at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and at Expo '92 in Spain. For more information, visit www.mikemurley.com

GENE SMITH completed his formal education under Bill Rivard at Central Michigan University. He earned a Masters Degree in Performance with Ray Wright, Bill Dobbins and John Marcellus at The Eastman School of Music in 1978. After much freelance work in upper New York and touring with The National Jazz Ensemble with Chuck Israels, Smith joined The Woody Herman Orchestra. His career with Woody's Orchestra lasted from 1979 until 1983 during which period he recorded *My Buddy*, *World Class*, *'Live'* at the Aurex Jazzfest and *'Live'* at Concord. Smith worked the following three years freelancing in the New York Music scene.



Gene Smith *trombone*

In 1985, Smith accepted a position in The Jazz Studies Department at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. He was a major force in the implementation and development of The school's curriculum. In addition to numerous recordings for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with various jazz groups, Smith has recently played on three *Maritime Jazz Orchestra* discs, *Justin' Time* featuring Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor and Norma Winstone.

Over the years, Smith has participated in numerous concerts, television appearances and jazz dates with artists such as Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Rosemary Clooney, Stan Getz, Al Cohn, Anita O'Day, George Shearing, Ray Charles, Cyrus Chestnut, Gerry Granelli, Lorne Lofsky, Kirk MacDonald, Pat Labarbera, Marvin Stamm, Natalie Cole, and Aretha Franklin.

Smith continues to carry on actively as a Player, a Clinician, a Festival Adjudicator and a Jazz Festival participant throughout North America.