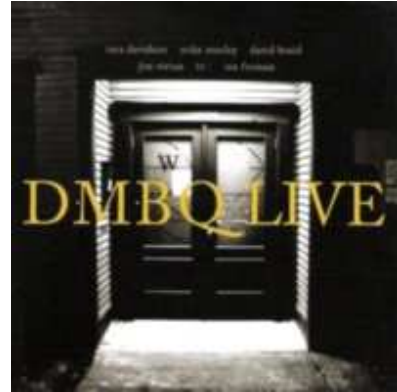


Thursday, January 17, 2008

## **DMBQ: Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet Releases Debut CD: DMBQ LIVE**

The DMBQ is releasing its debut CD, "DMBQ Live," at the Rex Hotel & Jazz Bar (194 Queen St. West, Toronto) on January 23 and 24, 2008.

The Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet (DMBQ) is a collaborative effort among Juno Award winners Mike Murley (saxophones) and David Braid (piano) along with emerging artist Tara Davidson (saxophones). The DMBQ represents world-class improvisation with lyrical grace, contemporary harmony and rhythmic vitality. Completing the quintet is the dynamic rhythm section of Toronto's Jim Vivian on bass and New York's Ian Froman on drums.



This recording is the follow up to the Murley/Braid Quartet's Juno-nominated *Mnemosyne's March* (Cornerstone, 2006). The MBQ was also awarded acoustic jazz ensemble of the year at the Canadian National Jazz Awards. In October 2006, Davidson joined the Murley/Braid Quartet as a special guest on a Canadian tour. On one of their final tour dates, the DMBQ recorded this unedited live CD at Vancouver's 'Western Front' and soon after, Davidson was invited to co-lead along with Murley and Braid to form the DMBQ.

The recording is an example of contemporary mainstream jazz at its finest, and illustrates a rhythmic and harmonic cohesion only possible through an ensemble that shares wealth of playing experience together.

DMBQ Live comprises eight tracks, with Davidson contributing two originals, and Murley and Braid both contributing three originals each. The DMBQ is planning another Canadian tour for 2008.

### **About the compositions on DMBQ LIVE:**

**Things (Murley):** A head written exploring some rhythmic possibilities on the chord changes of "All the Things You Are."

**Code Breaking (Davidson):** A tune dedicated to David Braid.

**Say A Silent Prayer (Braid):** A new arrangement of a piece previously recorded with the Murley Braid Quartet (2006) and The David Braid Sextet (2001).

**The Call (Braid):** This is a 26 bar variation on standard blues form in the radiant (and lesser played) key of F# major. The piece is constructed from applications of counterpoint, harmonic variation and motivic development.

**Tide Line (Murley):** A composition inspired by the Bay of Fundy tides in Nova Scotia that features Jim Vivian on bass.

**Reason, Season, Lifetime (Davidson):** Inspired by the people we meet in our lives and the roles they assume or grow into.

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**Wash Away (Braid):** A meeting of two influential musicians who lived roughly 100 years apart, Wash Away reminisces about the lyricism and harmonic subtlety of Chopin while driven by an earthy and soulful feeling inspired by Ray Charles.

**On the Spot (Murley):** Previously recorded with Ed Bickert and Steve Wallace, this head is based on the chord changes to "Yours is My Heart Alone."

To purchase the CD, visit <http://www.davidbraid.com/recordings.php>

More about Tara Davidson, Mike Murley, and David Braid, visit:

<http://www.taradavidson.ca/>

<http://www.mikemurley.com/>

<http://www.davidbraid.com/>

High-resolution image (print quality):

CD Cover: [http://www.davidbraid.com/images/DMBQ\\_live.JPG](http://www.davidbraid.com/images/DMBQ_live.JPG)

## **Biographies**

### **Tara Davidson, Saxophones**

Toronto-born saxophonist, composer and bandleader Tara Davidson is earning a reputation for herself as one of the leading lights in the next generation of Canadian jazz musicians. In May 2005, Toronto's Distillery Jazz Festival honoured Davidson with the "Emerging Artist Award."

Davidson's debut recording as a leader, *the Tara Davidson Quartet*, was officially released in January 2004. The album is frequently featured on Jazz FM 91.1 and CBC National Radio stations. Her newest CD, *Code Breaking*, features all new compositions and special guest, Juno-award-winning saxophonist, Mike Murley. Demonstrating an evolution in Davidson's sound and composing, *Code Breaking* features original compositions such as 'Puffin Boogie' and 'Code Breaking' that are arranged for a new "electric" ensemble with saxophone, Fender Rhodes piano and drums. Compositions such as 'Signal Hill' and 'Black Night Blue' feature more traditional group instrumentation including sax, acoustic piano, acoustic bass and drums. *Code Breaking* was released in Fall 2006 at Toronto's Rex Hotel & Jazz Bar. To promote her new album, Davidson toured nationally with the Murley/Braid Quartet that fall. Following the success of the tour, Davidson officially joined the group as a co-leader with Murley and Braid to form the Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet (DMBQ). The group released its debut CD in January 2008.

Davidson is also a co-founding member of the all-female jazz group, Without Words. Without Words has performed across Brazil, Ontario, Quebec, as well as in Manitoba and Lima, Peru. The group received second place in the Montreal Jazz Festival's prestigious General Motors Competition in 2003. Later the same year, Without Words produced their self-titled debut CD.

In January 2001, Davidson received international recognition as the selected saxophonist for IAJE's 2001 Sisters In Jazz Sextet. The sextet had their debut performance at IAJE's annual conference held in New York City. In the summer of 2001, she performed with the sextet on their European jazz festival tour. The group performed in six of Europe's major jazz festivals such as the North Sea Jazz Festival (The Hague, Holland) and the Istanbul International Jazz Festival (Istanbul, Turkey).

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Davidson's most significant musical influence has been saxophonist Mike Murley with whom she studied for five years. She is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto Jazz Performance Program where she studied with other prominent Canadian musicians such as Phil Nimmons, Paul Read, Alex Dean and Kirk MacDonald.

Davidson is currently performing nationally with her own group, the DMBQ, the Mike Murley Septet, the Paul Read Orchestra (PRO), the Andy Ballantyne Large Ensemble (A.B.L.E.), the Michael McClennan Octet, the Duncan Hopkins Quintet, the Chris Hunt Tentet and as a guest with the Laila Biali Trio.

More: <http://homepage.mac.com/taradavidson/taradavidsonbio.pdf>

### **Mike Murley, Saxophones**

An engaging, lyrical saxophonist, Mike Murley has emerged as one of the nation's finest jazz talents and one of the most versatile players on the scene today. Currently active as a leader in various formations from duo to septet, Murley also maintains a busy schedule as a sideman with the David Braid Sextet, the Rob McConnell Tentet and the David Occhipinti Quartet, among others. Since 1991, Murley has played on nine Juno Award winning recordings and has been named saxophonist of the year eight times by the Jazz Report Awards and National Jazz Awards.

Murley's 2006 recording, *The Melody lingers On* (CBC records), finds the saxophonist's trio live in concert at the Glenn Gould Studio with a 12-piece string ensemble conducted by Rick Wilkins. Also featured on the recording are Guido Basso (flugelhorn) and Tara Davidson (saxes) with string arrangements by Murley and guitarist Reg Schwager.

In January 2008 Murley released *Day and Night*, a co-led recording with his former teacher, David Liebman (Miles Davis, Elvin Jones, Quest). Recorded live at the Atlantic Jazz Festival in Halifax and released on Cornerstone Records, this CD also features the DMBQ's dynamic rhythm section of Jim Vivian (bass) and Ian Froman (drums).

Since 2002 Murley has been a visiting member of faculty at the prestigious Banff Centre for the Arts. In August 2007 he accepted a three-year contract to teach at York University as an assistant professor.

More: <http://www.mikemurley.com/biography-extended.asp>

### **David Braid, Piano**

Touted as one of Canada's most gifted young jazz pianists and composers, David Braid is a Juno Award winner, National Jazz Award recipient, and has performed extensively across Canada, Europe, Australia, Korea, Japan, China and other parts of Asia.

Braid graduated from the University of Toronto in 1998 and was nominated for the Canadian Governor General's Academic Medal. In 2001, the Canada Council for the Arts (JazzID program) selected and showcased Braid as one of five important young composers and jazz musicians in Canada.

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Braid made a relatively late entry into music and an even later foray into jazz. After several years of dedicated study, he quickly earned respect from music critics for the quality of his contributions as a composer and performer to a wide range of projects including The David Braid Sextet, Nimmons'n'Braid, Brubeck Braid and Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet (DMBQ). He is also a regular member of 12 other jazz ensembles including John MacLeod's Rex Hotel Orchestra, Mike Murley Septet, Metalwood, William Carn Quintet, Kelly Jefferson Quartet, Artie Roth Quintet, William Sperandei ensemble and Nehring, Koller & Braid.

Braid was the recipient of the 2007 'SOCAN Composer of the Year,' which recognized his writing for the David Braid Sextet, the principal vehicle for Braid's compositional work since 2000. One notable work was a commission from the Global Knowledge Foundation to compose and perform a piece to honour Dr. Stephen Hawking during his visit to Toronto in 1998.

Thirty-two-year-old Braid has written over sixty works and unveiled his first orchestral piece with the Winnipeg Symphony in 2005, which blended jazz form, symphonic composition and improvisation. Braid's open-mindedness in exploring different music styles has allowed him to venture outside jazz circles, as recent engagements with symphony orchestras performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" has confirmed Braid as an artist of surprising versatility. He is continuing to explore this blended form through a commission to compose and record an album with the renowned classical quintet, The Canadian Brass.

Aside from performing and composing, Braid has been a faculty member at the University of Toronto since 2003.

More: <http://www.davidbraid.com/biography.php>

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**To review the CD or set up an interview with DMBQ, please contact:**

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