

Dmitri Matheny releases 'Jazz Noir' at party in Phoenix

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK

Flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny needed to raise cash to create a film noir-inspired album, so he embarked on an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign last year.

He managed to raise over \$10,000 to pay for the recording, production, musicians and the replication of "Jazz Noir." "For a long time, people told me to try it. I gave it a shot and it worked," Matheny said.

Now, Matheny, a part-time Chandler resident, will perform selections from his latest collection at a CD release celebration at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at The Nash, 110 E. Roosevelt St., Phoenix. For more information, call (602) 795-0464.

"The concept is film noir, the femme fatale, the hard boiled detective, Bogey and Bacall, those kinds of sensibilities," Matheny said of the CD.

The collection features classic movie themes from "Touch of Evil," "Laura," "Chinatown," "Vertigo," "Taxi Driver," "Blues In The Night," "Twin Peaks," "Toute Une Vie," "High Wall," "The Long Goodbye" and "Stormy Weather," modern standards "Estate," "Caravan," "Here's Looking At You" and "Golden Lady," and two originals: "Film Noir" from a poem by Dana Gioia and "Crime Scenes."

The Papillion/BluePort Jazz release, Matheny's 11th album as leader, showcases the talents of "some of the most accomplished musicians in the western United States," according to *All About Jazz*: Bill Anschell, Matt Clark, Nick Manson, Charles McNeal, Susan Pascal,

Phil Sparks, Todd Strait, Akira Tana, Jay Thomas and John Wiitala. Musicians appearing with him at The Nash are Andrew Gross, tenor saxophone; Nick Manson, piano; T-Bone Sistrunk, bass, and Rob Moore, drums.

"The Nash is one of my favorite places to play," Matheny said. Of course, CDs will be available to purchase. "It's a performance, it's a concert," Matheny said of the evening show.

Matheny fell in love with jazz at a young age. "When I was a little kid, my father had one recording of Miles Davis' 'Kind of Blue.' The muted horn sound was searching, and plaintive," Matheny said. "I wanted to be a jazz musician. It's what I liked with early instruments and it's what I love now."

He began piano lessons at age 5 and switched to the trumpet at age 9. Matheny attended Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, then the Berklee College of Music in Boston, graduating magna cum laude in 1989.

Matheny has had the privilege of appearing in concert with such jazz luminaries Larry Coryell, Nathan Davis, Amina Figarova, Tommy Flanagan, Wycliffe Gordon, Darrell Grant, Larry Grenadier, John Handy, Billy Higgins, Red Holloway, Denise Jannah, Charles McPherson, James Moody, Jean Louis Rassinfosse, Margo Reed, Tony Reelus, Sam Rivers, Max Roach, Dennis Rowland, the Rosenberg Trio, Bud Shank, Sonny Simmons, Mary Stallings, Akira Tana, Billy Taylor, Bobby Watson and Paula West. Matheny's discography lists over



Flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny celebrates his release of "Jazz Noir" at The Nash, 110, E. Roosevelt St., in Phoenix on Saturday, Feb. 20. *Submitted photo*

120 CDs on which he appears as a composer, arranger, producer, annotator or flugelhorn soloist. He has released 10 critically acclaimed albums as a leader: "Red Reflections," "Penumbra," "Starlight Cafe," "Santa's Got a Brand New Bag," "Nocturne," "The SnowCat," "Spiritu Sancto," "Best of Dmitri Matheny," "Grant and Matheny" and "Sagebrush Rebellion."

Matheny plays the flugelhorn for its warm lyrical sound. He became a protégé

of the legendary Art Farmer, a musician who inspired Matheny. "Art Farmer defined the sound of the instrument," Matheny said. "I aspire to do what he did."

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