

Heavy

rotation

The **Matheny Music** Newsletter

Vol. VIII • 2000-01 Season

RECORDINGS
PERFORMANCES
NEWS AND REVIEWS OF
FLUGELHORNIST COMPOSER
DMITRI MATHENY

With A Hot New CD, a Full Touring Schedule and a Legendary Horn, Dmitri Matheny is

FLYING HIGH

Interview with Lauren Craft, Public Radio International (PRI). Reprinted With Permission

Dmitri Matheny was virtually unknown when his first album was released five years ago, but in a matter of weeks he was topping the radio charts and selling out concert halls from New York to Warsaw. After years performing in small nightclubs, he had become the classic overnight success. But there was really nothing overnight about Matheny. He had already paid his dues at Boston's prestigious Berklee College of Music, studied privately with flugelhorn legend Art Farmer, and worked steadily on both coasts for nearly a decade.

5 CDs later, Matheny is collecting awards and accolades at an alarming rate. *Jazziz* magazine has rated him "Best New Artist," while the *San Jose Mercury News* has dubbed him "the first breakthrough flugelhornist since Chuck Mangione."

The torch has been passed, but Matheny is not resting on his laurels. His 2000 Tour included concerts in Japan, Europe and the United States. We caught up with Dmitri in San Francisco at the conclusion of his travels.

► Continued inside



photos: Stuart Brinn

KING OF CLUBS

Flugelhornist Dmitri Matheny has appeared at over 100 nightclubs, festivals and concert halls internationally this year.



LIVIN' LA VIDA DIVA

Matheny recently shared the spotlight in Japan with popular vocalist Keiko Osamu (top), in Europe with piano star Amina Figarova (bottom) and at home with Brazilian Siren Claudia Villela (center).

Net Worth

Best of the Web

The world watched this summer as Silicon Valley moguls and glamorous Hollywood celebrities stepped out of limos onto a red carpet patrolled by paparazzi. The International Academy of Digital Media Arts and Sciences was honoring the world's best web sites at the fourth annual Webby Awards. Celebrity judges included SANDRA BERNHARD, ROBIN WILLIAMS, MATT GROENING, JULIA CHILD, LAURIE ANDERSON, JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEY, PATRICK STEWART, FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA, DAVID BOWIE, DEEPAK CHOPRA and COURTNEY LOVE. Webcast live on Yahoo, the VIP bash featured gourmet food by leading chefs and live music by DMITRI MATHENY.

Back to COOL

Concerts for Kids

The DMITRI MATHENY GROUP will perform 80 free concerts for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders during the 2000-2001 school year, sponsored by the San Francisco Symphony and the Friends of Matheny Music. To support these programs, mail-in your contribution using the enclosed envelope. For more information, contact 1-877-MATHENY or friends@mathenymusic.com.

Matheny performs over 100 concerts annually, including the San Francisco HOME SEASON, International TOURING SEASON, and WINTERFEST Family Christmas Concerts. To receive concert announcements join the Dmitri Matheny E-List at dmitri@mathenymusic.com.



WinterFest

December 2000

Annual Family Concert Series

A Charlie Brown Christmas

The giddy anticipation that greets the Dmitri Matheny WINTERFEST each year is grounded in certain unshakable truths: children will squeal and run in circles, the band's apparel will be gloriously gaudy, and the storyteller will remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. Each year we select a popular children's story and set it to music. This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Peanuts, and the 25th anniversary of the popular animated television special: A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 — 10 am, 12 noon HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE, LODI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 — 2 & 4 pm YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, SF

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 — 7:30 pm SANCHEZ ARTS CENTER, PACIFICA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 — 8 pm JAZZSCHOOL, BERKELEY

December 10 — Jazz Vespers

Sacred Songs of the Solstice

In California, the shortest day of the year is usually brilliantly sunlit and scented with lemon blossoms. Traditionally, it is a high holiday because it marks the beginning of the return of light over darkness. Where Winter Solstice is seen as nature's dramatic metaphor for death and rebirth, as well as a primeval contest between good and evil, people celebrate with communal rituals and festivities. This performance of GRANT & MATHENY is integrated with a holiday worship service, free to the public.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 — 5 pm OLD FIRST CHURCH, SF

December 31, 2000 —

"New Millennium Mass" Encore Performance

Spiritu Sancto

Composed by Dmitri Matheny in collaboration with Ted Hall, SPIRITU SANCTO received its World Premiere at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco on December 31, 1999. Written for organ, flugelhorn and vocal soloists, choir, brass sextet, and percussion, the Mass is a complete liturgical work of twelve movements, with classical, jazz, gospel and world music elements. St. Dominic's Church, considered one of the most significant examples of neo-gothic church architecture in the western United States, provides powerful acoustics, soaring ceilings and faux stone construction. The music is integrated with holiday worship services, free to the public.

NEW YEAR'S EVE — 10 pm ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH, BUSH AND STEINER, SF

POSTCARDS FROM THE ROAD Matheny Makes the Scene...



...with Christian McBride at the JAS Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Colony



...with Sterling James at San Francisco's North Beach Jazz Festival



...with Herbie Hancock in Aspen

FLYING HIGH continued

DMITRI, THE READERS OF JAZZIZ VOTED YOU "BEST NEW ARTIST" ALONG WITH BRAD MEHLDAU, RAVI COLTRANE AND STEFON HARRIS. ARE YOU FLATTERED BY ALL THE RECENT ATTENTION?

That was a great honor, but Brad Mehldau is truly in a class by himself. He's on par with the Great Ones. When he performs, Mehldau seems to be channeling pure music, straight from the source.

We're bringing back melodies, and people dig that.

WE'VE ALSO SEEN A LOT OF YOU RECENTLY ON TELEVISION, AS A GUEST VJ ON BET.

Our society is so visually-oriented. When my CD *Starlight Café* was being played on 300 radio stations, it made a small splash. But when they put it on the United Airlines in-flight video, we were flooded with e-mails. The power of the visual, I guess!

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE RESPOND SO WELL TO YOUR MUSIC?

I think it's because of the importance we place on melody. Melody is where the romance lives. There's a profound absence of melody in a lot of contemporary music. We're bringing back melodies, and people dig that.

YOU JUST FINISHED A BIG TOUR. WHAT STANDS OUT?

This year's tour was extra special because of my new horn. It belonged to my teacher, Art Farmer, who died last year. Knowing Art played this instrument, feeling his spirit, I'm inspired to work harder than ever, trying to live up to his standard of performance every night.

YOU AND ART HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

We did. He was my mentor for ten years. I just played at his memorial service in New

York. Everyone was there: Tommy Flanagan, Rufus Reid, Jim Hall. All of us who play the Big Horn owe a great debt to Art. He defined the sound of the flugelhorn in jazz. And, he was a beautiful human being.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO MAKE YOUR HOME IN SAN FRANCISCO AND NOT NEW YORK?

Well, you know, Art taught me that you spend most of your life on the road, living out of a suitcase. He said, "where do you want to be when you go home?" I chose the San Francisco Bay Area. Tony Bennett calls it "America's Paris." It's one of the world's great cities, aesthetically beautiful and culturally precious. We have great food and wine, one of the best jazz clubs in the world, two strong jazz festivals, a great symphony, museums, and of course, the glorious California coast.

...AND CALIFORNIA GIRLS?

Well, yes, I met my wife Larissa here in California.

YOU ARE ALSO KNOWN FOR WORKING WITH WOMEN MUSICIANS—UNCOMMON IN JAZZ.

Not as uncommon as you might think. The media loves to focus on the women, as if they're some kind of sexy novelty, but truth be told, these women are outstanding musicians.

TELL US ABOUT AMINA FIGAROVA. YOU JUST RELEASED A CD WITH HER ON THE MUNICH LABEL.

I'm thrilled with this project. Munich is one of the top recording companies in Europe. Amina is a hit at jazz festivals everywhere, from Brazil to the North Sea. Wherever we perform audiences adore her. Our new CD, *Live in Europe*, features compositions from both of us, and a great international band.



...with Claudia Villela and Ruth Davies at Yoshi's in Oakland

...and with Bobby Watson at the Telluride Jazz Celebration

...with Red Holloway and Kim Nalley at the San Jose Jazz Festival

...with Darrell Grant at the Taos Jazz Festival

Home Season

March 2001

DMITRI MATHENY performs over 100 concerts internationally each year, but returns to the Bay Area every March for his anticipated HOME SEASON. Don't miss these three magical evenings at Yoshi's, Northern California's premier jazz club:

Gala Opening Night — March 26, 8 pm

CD Release Celebration

DMITRI MATHENY GROUP
Join Dmitri and the band for a glittering Gala with warm romantic music, cool tropical beverages, and a red carpet celebration of Matheny's hot new CD. Festive cocktail attire encouraged.

Chamber Jazz — March 27, 8 pm

Matheny With Strings

GRANT & MATHENY
DEL SOL STRING QUARTET
Is there a more romantic sound than jazz with strings? Charlie Parker and Clifford Brown didn't think so, and neither will you! Renowned chamber jazz duo GRANT & MATHENY are joined by the DEL SOL STRING QUARTET for an inspired musical journey, capturing the playful, spontaneous spirit of American jazz, re-inventing European art songs, and interpreting sacred and secular works from around the world.

Big Band — March 28, 8 pm

Diva Night

DMITRI MATHENY ORCHESTRA
Featuring **MARY STALLINGS**
VANESSA LOWE
There's something about Mary Stallings! If you relish the kind of swanky sophistication you can only find in a cosmopolitan cabaret, where the femmes are fatales, the men have lived hard, and unrequited love lingers in the air like San Francisco fog—then this is the show for you. Join legendary Basie vocalist MARY STALLINGS and the DMITRI MATHENY ORCHESTRA as they take you from a Big Band-era supper club, to a Louisiana juke joint, with stops at an Argentinean tango bar and French nightclub along the way.

YOU SEEM TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME OVERSEAS. I WENT TO YOUR SHOW LAST NIGHT, AND YOU PLAYED NEW PIECES YOU WROTE IN FRANCE, TUSCANY, JAPAN, AND THE WEST INDIES.

This is an idea I borrowed from one of my heroes, Dave Brubeck. When he traveled to the East, he brought back "Jazz Impressions of India" for his American audience. I love that idea: musical postcards from the road.

YOU AND DARRELL GRANT ALSO JUST COMPLETED A BIG TOUR TOGETHER AS A DUO.

Grant & Matheny, my favorite project. Darrell is *The Man* on piano. We're playing a diverse repertoire we call "chamber jazz," including spirituals, show tunes, folk songs, and classical. The California Arts Council has given us some tour support, so we're able to refine our sound on the road. Everyone is asking us to record.

FOR YOUR NEXT CD, YOU'RE WORKING WITH BRAD COLE, MUSICAL DIRECTOR FOR PHIL COLLINS. WILL THIS BE A POP ALBUM?

If by "Pop" you mean "popular," I certainly hope so! What I'm trying to do on this project with Brad is to combine Brazilian, world and ambient styles to create a compelling sound similar to something Sting might do.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SAXOPHONE. IN THE PAST YEAR, YOU'VE PERFORMED WITH A LOT OF GREAT SAX MEN: RED HOLLOWAY, DAVE ELLIS, BOBBY WATSON, AND JAMES MOODY. YOU ALSO DID CLINICS WITH DON BRADEN AND STANLEY TURRENTINE. WHAT IS IT ABOUT SAXOPHONISTS THAT APPEALS TO YOU SO?

I love the *tone* of the saxophone. I try to play like a sax player or a singer, to get that wonderful, warm, vocal quality. And I'm inspired by the cats who do it right, like the people you mentioned.

IN A RECENT ARTICLE, JAZZ CRITIC ANDREW GILBERT SAYS "MATHENY HAS BUILT HIS CAREER AS IF HE WERE AN INDEPENDENT ARTS INSTITUTION." WHAT DO YOU THINK HE MEANS BY THAT?

I think Andy's talking about the great people I work with. The musicians in my band are first rate, and we work with a talented team of about a dozen professionals who handle tour promotion, publicity, the web site, music publishing and licensing, bookkeeping, graphic design, concert production, and administrative work. We concentrate our tours around the release of each new CD. We don't perform a lot locally. Instead, we present a Home Season in March, and WinterFest family shows each December. The rest of the year, we focus on education and community programs.

WHY THE BIG EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION?

My father was a great educator, and my own early development was nurtured in jazz camps, at Interlochen and Berklee, and by teachers like Carmine Caruso, Herb Pomeroy and Art Farmer. Now that I'm having some success of my own, it's my turn to give back.

Now that I'm having some success of my own, it's my turn to give back.

EVEN YOUR FAN CLUB RAISES FUNDS FOR MUSIC EDUCATION.

I prefer to call them a "Patrons Group." The Friends of Matheny Music make tax-deductible contributions which support our free programs for children in the schools. Whether the kids are aspiring musicians or just learning to appreciate music, their lives are enhanced. And it makes us feel great! ★

Membership in the Friends of Matheny Music is the convenient way to get tickets to our shows at the best price. Memberships start at just \$100 a year.

Benefits include two free reserved seating tickets for all Home Season shows, invitations to special champagne receptions and members-only privileges throughout the year! Use the enclosed envelope to join today.

In This Issue: LIVE IN EUROPE
New CD with Amina Figarova
Join the Dmitri Matheny E-List to receive monthly
concert announcements: dmitri@mathenymusic.com

Address Correction Requested

7515 Claremont Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705-1432

The Matheny Music Newsletter

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Dynamic Duo in Gotham

Mark your calendar! The celebrated "chamber jazz" duo of Grant & Matheny will kick off the new millennium with *Strength to Love: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* at St. Peter's Church in Manhattan January 14, 2001.



DARRELL GRANT & DMITRI MATHENY

photos: Pat Johnson

CONTACT US

Telephone:
510 THE JAZZ (843 5299)

Toll Free:
877 MATHENY (628 4369)

E-Mail: friends@mathenymusic.com

Web Site: www.mathenymusic.com

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Graphic Design

Bucciarelli Communications
Berkeley, California

Design Consultants

Greta Berger
Brad Rickman

Copy Writer & Editor

Honoré Dutrey

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Discography

Dmitri Matheny

Santa's Got a Brand New Bag (1999)

Starlight Café (1998)

Penumbra: The Moon Sessions (1997)

Red Reflections (1996)

Amina Figarova & Dmitri Matheny

Live in Europe: Jazz at the Pinehill (2000)

Flugelhornist

Ian Dogole, *Night Harvest* (2000)

Ian Dogole, *Ionospheres* (1997)

Birdland Express, *PassionFire* (2000)

Crown Project, *Modern Mancini* (2000)

Crown Project, *Gershwin on Monarch* (1998)

5 Voices, *Quint-Essential* (2000)

Cathi Walkup, *Living In A Daydream* (1999)

Ron Kaplan, *Lounging Around* (1999)

Clairdee, *Destination Moon* (1999)

Dave Ellis, *In the Long Run* (1998)

Nika Rejto, *Bridge Weaver* (1998)

Daria, *Just the Beginning* (1997)

Yehudit (1997)

Ken Schaphorst, *Making Lunch* (1989)

Producer, Composer, Arranger

Vicki Burns, *Siren Song* (Producer, Arranger, 2000)

John Heller, *Dream Farm* (Producer, 1998)

Art Farmer, *Live at Stanford Jazz Workshop* (Executive Producer, 1997)

SFMOMA, *Voices & Images of California Art CD-ROM* (Composer, 1997)

Various Artists, *SF Jazz Festival Sampler Volume I* (Associate Producer, 1996)

Dave Ellis, *Raven* (Executive Producer, 1996)

Peron/Spangler, *Dedication* (Executive Producer, 1996)

Eddie Marshall, *San Francisco Nighthawks* (Executive Producer, 1996)

Dmitri Matheny WINNER of 7 Prestigious Awards

Model Touring Artist,
California Arts Council, 2000

99 People to Watch,
San Francisco Metropolitan Magazine, 1999, 2000

Bay Area Best,
San Francisco Examiner Magazine, 1996-2000

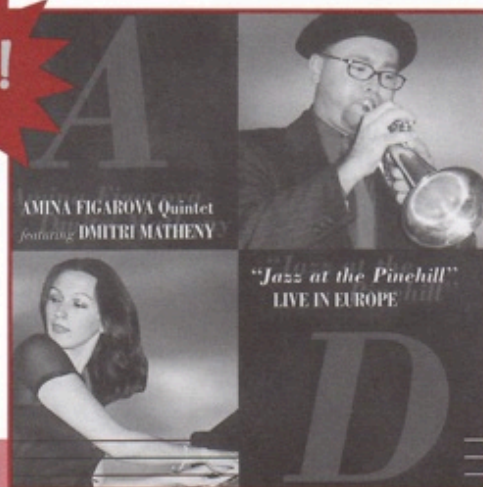
Best New Artist,
Jazziz International Readers Poll, 1999

Talent Deserving Wider Recognition,
DownBeat International Critics Poll, 1998

The Year's Best Recordings,
International Association of Jazz Educators Journal, 1996

10 Best CDs of the Year,
Jazziz Magazine Critics Picks, 1996

new!



Live In Europe: Jazz at the Pinehill

A world-class recipe: mix hot Azerbaijan keyboard with cool American horn, season with tasty Belgian flute, then simmer for one hour in a warm Dutch rhythm section—and voila!—our hottest recording yet!

"Figarova and Matheny are a winning combination."— *Public Radio International*

gifts

COMPACT DISCS



Santa's Got a Brand New Bag: Dmitri Matheny Christmas Collection Volume 1

Stuff your stocking with this cool collection of holiday classics featuring performances by popular vocalists Paula West, Brenda Boykin and Clairdee.

"Matheny's warm tone, playful nature and lyrical sensibilities add an extra dimension to this collection of tried-and-true holiday tunes."

— *Monterey Herald*



Starlight Café

A certified hit at jazz radio, *Starlight Café* was recorded live-in-concert with pianist Darrell Grant and bassist Bill Douglass.

"This is music to touch your spirit."
— *Marian McPartland*



Penumbra: The Moon Sessions

Produced by the legendary Orrin Keepnews, and featuring tenor titan Dave Ellis, Matheny's sophomore CD is a collection of romantic music inspired by the Moon.

"The best mainstream jazz recording of the year."

— *San Francisco Bay Guardian*



Red Reflections

A collector's item! Matheny's debut CD showcases the flugelhornist in his 20s, performing original compositions and lesser known works of Horace Silver and Michael Brecker.

"Red Reflections sounds so good I wish I'd made it myself."

— *Art Farmer*

Join THE CLUB

You are invited to join the Friends of Matheny Music, a not-for-profit association under the fiscal sponsorship of the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Throughout history, Patrons of the Arts have sponsored the artistic creations of their ages. They were the curators of culture during their tenure on the earth. They had both the passion to preserve the musical treasures of the past and the vision to ensure the artistic promise of the future.

The Friends of Matheny Music are such Patrons. More than a Fan Club, the Friends support the visionary artistic and educational programs of flugelhornist-composer Dmitri Matheny.

Founded by a dedicated group of artists and community leaders, and leveraged by the international success of Matheny's tours and recordings, the Friends have taken care to remain involved in their local communities.

We organize concerts for families and in the schools, host visiting artists, commission and premiere new works, donate concert proceeds to local charities, and provide employment to dozens of regional musicians.

Please make checks payable to "San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music," and earmarked for "Membership—Friends of Matheny Music." The San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information, contact 1-877-MATHENY or friends@mathenymusic.com.

Use the enclosed envelope and join today!

Friends of Matheny Music

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Free Compact Disc, T-Shirt, Poster or Gift	★	★	★	★
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10% Discount and Free Shipping on All CDs	★	★	★	★
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Private Salon Concert for You and Your Guests				★

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<i>Santa's Got a Brand New Bag</i>	\$15.00	\$13.00		
<i>Starlight Café</i>	\$15.00	\$13.00		
<i>Penumbra: The Moon Sessions</i>	\$15.00	\$13.00		
<i>Red Reflections</i>	\$15.00	\$13.00		
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