

CANADIAN JAZZ COLLECTIVE

BLENDING THREE UNIQUE CANADIAN ARTISTIC VOICES THROUGH CREATIVE COLLABORATION

DERRICK GARDNER



KIRK MACDONALD



LORNE LOFSKY



The Canadian Jazz Collective is a newly created group of established & award-winning Canadian jazz artists, which takes a collaborative approach to the presentation of original Canadian jazz on the international market. The Collective's repertoire consists of original compositions from saxophonist Kirk MacDonald & trumpeter Derrick Gardner – specially arranged for this ensemble. It also features the works of guitarist Lorne Lofsky, one of the unsung heroes on the Canadian jazz scene.

Comprised of ensemble leaders Kirk MacDonald (saxophonist/composer), Derrick Gardner (trumpeter/composer), & Lorne Lofsky (guitarist/composer), along with rising star clarinetist Virginia MacDonald, bassist Neil Swainson, pianist Brian Dickinson, & Belgian drummer Bernd Reiter, the Canadian Jazz Collective has been formed with the purpose of creative collaboration; the blending of three unique artistic voices, & developing new performance ensembles for their works, in order to showcase their virtuosic, world-class artistry & original compositions to new international audiences.

The Canadian Jazz Collective traveled to Europe in early May 2022, landing in Paris, France, to showcase the compositions of the ensemble leaders at a jazz industry event facilitated by the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, & performed a public concert at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris, May 5th, 2022.

Additionally, The Canadian Jazz Collective garnered support from German promoter/record producer Friedhelm Schulz and MPS Studios in Villingen, Germany & recorded a performance at MPS' iconic studio in the Black Forest. The recording will be released on CD, vinyl, and all digital platforms in May 2023.

Derrick Gardner

"Gardner proves himself to be a visionary composer."
Peter Vacher, JazzWise Magazine

"Soulful and intelligent, a tremendous talent with a vivid and unusual imagination."
The Herald Times, Bloomington



Performer, composer, and veteran of the Count Basie Orchestra and Harry Connick Jr. Big Bands, Derrick Gardner has worked with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson, Frank Forster, and Tony Bennet to name only a few. Recently, Derrick put together his 18-piece Big dig! Band for the recording of Still I Rise (Impact Jazz) – a powerful, explosive album released in July 2020 that spent over thirty weeks on the JazzWeek Top 50 chart. Derrick formed his own sextet, The Jazz Prophets, in 1991; it continues to be one of the primary vehicles for his distinctive, hard-driving music. The band's three-man horn line – consisting of himself, tenor sax player Rob Dixon and Derrick's brother, trombonist Vincent Gardner of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, has been together since the beginning. The Jazz Prophets have released three albums to date, and in 2009 they received the Independent Music Award's Best Jazz Album Of The Year for their release Echoes Of Ethnicity. The Jazz Prophets' albums boil with the long-standing collective's sheer passion for the soulful, funky jazz sound of which Cannonball Adderly and Horace Silver built solid foundations with their 1950's and 60's ensembles.

Kirk MacDonald

"When Kirk MacDonald plays, it's as if complex chord sequences lie down in sweet surrender as the tenor saxophone hero carves wending, highly charged, eloquent melodies." *Peter Hum, The Ottawa Citizen*

"Kirk MacDonald has maintained his integrity as one of Canada's leading saxophonists for over 25 years. As a composer and performer, Kirk has managed to turn out exceptional musical projects every few years that reflect his musical growth and direction." *Pat LaBarbera*



Two-time Juno Award winner and recipient of the Toronto Music Association's Life Time Achievement Award, saxophonist/composer Kirk MacDonald is one of the most well-established Canadian jazz musicians of his generation. With over 100 compositions spanning sixteen CDs as a leader/co-leader, Kirk has led ensembles on tours across Canada, Spain, France, England, Germany, Italy, The US, Egypt, and India. With an established reputation as one of Canada's leading saxophonists, Kirk MacDonald cut his first record at the age of thirteen, and the scope and depth of his catalogue are legendary. Throughout his career, he has received numerous awards including one East Coast Music Award, two Jazz Report awards, the International Jazz Soloist award, and SOCAN's Hagood Hardy Award for Composition. Kirk has worked with many leading musicians in a variety of musical genres, and critics describe him as "A powerhouse with mature style".

Lorne Lofsky

"Guitar players know about him. The people that know, know. His playing is spontaneous, adventurous, playful. I have the utmost respect for him." *Peter Bernstein*

"American listeners have slept for too long on this major figure in Canadian Jazz, whose gorgeous tone, technical prowess, and cool, cerebral approach to improvisation may remind admirers of the late Jim Hall"
Allen Morrison, JazzTimes



Over the course of a 40+ year career, Lofsky has played, toured, and recorded with some of the most prominent names in Jazz including Oscar Peterson, Chet Baker, Ed Bickert, Pat LaBarbera, Ray Brown, Joey DeFrancesco, and many others. Born, raised, and based in Toronto, Canada, Lofsky's career began when Oscar Peterson offered to produce his first record, It Could Happen To You (Pablo Records), in 1980. During the years that followed, Lofsky worked extensively in the Toronto area and toured with the likes of Pat LaBarbera, and fellow guitarist Ed Bickert. Bickert and Lofsky's fruitful collaboration ran from 1983 through 1991 and produced two widely-acclaimed recordings including the well-known 1990 Concord release This Is New. A master guitarist known for pianistic voicings and virtuosic skill, Lorne Lofsky is considered one of Canada's great musical treasures. This Song Is New is his first recording as a leader in over two decades and signals an exciting new page in the guitarist's illustrious career.



Brian Dickinson



Virginia MacDonald



Neil Swainson



Bernd Reiter

2020 International Clarinetist Corona Competition first prize winner **Virginia MacDonald** has established herself as a respected & sought-after musician in the Canadian jazz scene. Known for her lyrical and soulful clarinet playing, Virginia has been described as a “powerful new voice in the Canadian scene” by Juno Award-winning bassist Mike Downes.

Juno Award-winning pianist and composer **Brian Dickinson** has been a mainstay on the Canadian jazz scene for close to 40 years. He has played with the likes of Maria Schneider, Dewey Redman, Donny McCaslin, Bob Mintzer, Randy Brecker and Pat LaBarbera, just to name a few.

Four-time Juno Award winner & recipient of the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Toronto Musician’s Association, **Neil Swainson** is among the most respected and accomplished bassists on the jazz scene today.

Award-winning Austrian drummer **Bernd Reiter**, who studied in Graz & New York & now lives in Paris, always delivering a rock-solid beat. He has worked with many international jazz stars such as Kirk Lightsey, Don Menza, Steve Grossman, Charles Davis, Claudio Roditi & many more.





[Link to Hi-Res Photos](#)

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