



JodyJazz Tradin' With the Greats

Your Turn to Blow

Here's a novel concept: jazz play-along CDs that are designed not only for developing advanced improvisational skills, but for learning the art of *trading* solos as well. And not just with anyone, but seasoned pros George Garzone and Kenny Werner.

Two new volumes of Tradin' With the Greats from saxophone mouthpiece-maker JodyJazz place you right on the bandstand with tenor saxophonist Garzone and pianist Werner, where you can improvise back and forth just as if you were trading solos with them on a gig. The act of trading inspires you to play at higher levels of artistry than normal. It forces you to exercise your listening chops and makes the experience of practicing your improv that much more rewarding.

Each two-disc set actually has a dual purpose. Disc One is set up for you to play the melody of each tune and then trade choruses, eights and fours with the featured artist and their groups. Disc Two is in a more traditional play-along format where you can play everything—heads and solos—while the rhythm section comps. Chord sheets for instruments in C, B-flat, E-flat and bass clef are provided via pdf files that are included. Melody lines for a couple of original tunes by each artist are also provided; for the standards, however, you'll have to play the heads from memory or learn them on your own.

The Garzone volume includes "There Is No Greater Love," "Softly As In A Morning Sunrise," "Green Dolphin Street," "My One And Only Love," "Billy's Bounce," "I Love You," "It Could Happen To You," "Out Of Nowhere" and "Alone Together," plus the originals "The Mingus That I Knew," "Tutti Italiani" and "Hey, Open Up." In addition to Garzone, the other musicians on the tracks are pianist Mulgrew Miller, bassist John Lockwood and drummer Bob Gullotti.

The Werner volume includes "What Is This Thing Called Love," "Beautiful Love," "Invitation," "Stella By Starlight," "Giant Steps," "Yesterdays," "Lonnie's Lament" and "Autumn Leaves," plus the originals "Autumn In 6" and "Yump." Backing up Werner, the supporting cast of cats includes guitarist Chris Crocco, bassist Johannes Weidenmueller and drummer Ross Pederson.

Tradin' With the Greats is an invitation to sit in on a session with some of the best improvisers of our time. Recorded at System Two in Brooklyn, both volumes were mixed like a real album, which means that the drums and bass are not panned hard right and left. And remember, the musicians on these tracks haven't been thrown together for a one-time session; they all perform together regularly and know each other intimately. The experience of playing along with Werner and Garzone and their respective bands is incredibly real, and when it's your turn to play you immediately get a sense of just how well you measure up to the greats. Each two-disc volume costs only \$19.95; purchase both of them together for \$37.90. —Bruce Gibson

Ordering info: jodyjazz.com

P. Mauriat PMB-302GL Baritone Saxophone

Low B-Flat Beauty

Sometimes, you don't want a low-A bari. You'd rather have an instrument that plays and feels more like a *saxophone* and less like an oak tree.

That's exactly what you get with the P. Mauriat PMB-302GL baritone saxophone, a low-B-flat horn with modern, professional features that's lighter in weight and noticeably easier to manage than any of the low-A horns that have dominated the market for decades.

Designed with the soloist in mind, this bari is also more than appropriate for ensemble work, something I discovered during a recent big band gig where it admirably performed double-duty.

The PMB-302GL played with a gutsy bari sound that anchored the sax section nicely; it was especially sweet during passages with quiet dynamics. Its Selmer-style keywork was lightning fast, which helped quite a bit while soloing and playing more modern big band arrangements.

Features of the PMB-302GL include a high F-sharp key, straight tone holes, Pisoni professional pads, metal resonators, blued steel needle springs, headed bullet point pivot screws, a three-hole neck-strap ring that helps you balance the horn and adjust the angle of the neck to your liking, palm-key keyguards and cosmetically cool abalone key touches. Available in gold-lacquer and unlacquered finishes, it has a body constructed of red brass and keys made from yellow brass. The bow and bell of the PMB-302GL feature classy hand-engraving for a sophisticated look. It comes with a wheeled ABS case for easy transportation on smooth surfaces (be careful not to take it over too many bumps in the road—excessive vibration could ultimately lead to leaks and throw things out of adjustment).

If you play-test the PMB-302GL for yourself, you'll discover just what a positive effect a low-B-flat bari like this can have on your overall performance. So what if the arrangement calls for a low A? Either use your foot, or take it up an octave and let the bass trombone worry about blasting out that low concert C.

—Ed Enright

Ordering info: pmauriat.com

