

Matt Hill

Valerie Gillespie



WITH HIS ELEGANTLY ROLLICKING barrelhouse style, Piano Bob Wilder conjures a world of dusty Delta jukes and rowdy Bourbon Street bars. A familiar figure on the South Florida blues scene, Wilder has provided a terrific foil for New Orleans ex-pat vocalist and harmonicist John Carey, who has been living in Lake Worth post-Hurricane Katrina. The pair returned to the Crescent City last year to record the aptly titled *Back in New Orleans*, an excellent and varied set mostly comprising Carey originals that should more than please lovers of the region's distinctive soundtrack.

Wilder's frisky piano greets listeners on the opening title track, as he dances exuberantly alongside Jimmy Carpenter's spirited tenor sax and the right-on rhythm section of bassist Sean Carey (John's son) and drummer Willy Panker. John Carey's smoky tenor vocals are perfectly suited to this brand of old-school New Orleans R&B, as he gives shout-outs to his bandmates as well as local institutions such as The Howlin' Wolf and The Maple Leaf. As throughout, guitarist John Fohl provides heated leads and riffs, as required.

Piano Bob references a library of New Orleans licks on "Doin' the Big Easy," an instrumental piece he wrote and performed years ago with his former duo partner Ken "Snowman" Minahan. Wilder tips his hat to the great Professor Longhair with his trilling right hand and triphammer left, and receives expert assistance from this crackerjack band, particularly Fohl and Carpenter, who each unspool concise yet feisty solos.

With a second-line rhythm set in motion by drums and percussion, "Parade of Injustice" introduces another groove to the Mardi Gras mix. Carpenter's bottom-bumping baritone sax is fattened up by Eric Ensminger's trumpet and trombone, as Carey sings a message about his neighbors'—and the country's indifference to suffering, something he likely witnessed after Katrina. Once again, Wilder displays just the right touch, his piano stepping smartly alongside Panker's martial beat.

Carey truly shines on a pair of ballads, his supple pipes finding just the right emotional textures on "Spirit Inside of Me" and "Slow Dancin'." On the former, a slow-cooking soul-



JOHN CAREY & PIANO BOB WILDER

blues punctuated by a Carpenter-arranged horn section á la Otis Redding, the vocalist sings of his struggles to be a better man. On the latter, Fohl's quietly reverberating guitar sets the mood for this moonlit love song, which fairly drips with the humidity of a summer night in Louisiana. Carey tenderly sings of clinging tight to his baby on the dancefloor, too enervated to do much more than sway.

Tracks such as "Soul Surgeon" and "Gipsy Woman Blues" utilize Carey's cutting yet sparsely used harmonica. On the latter, Carey's harp razors through the swampy slow blues, as Wilder adds pianistic comments to each desperately sad verse. The heartfelt, autobiographical tune must have provided some catharsis for Carey, who lost his wife, Gipsy, to cancer last year. Piano Bob also offers a bright solo and comps on "Rock-a-Bye Baby," which spotlights the vocals and guitar of talented roots and blues artist Eric Lindell.

Cajun spices flavor "Desir'ee," a charming waltz that features Jumpin' Johnny Sansone on accordion, and the concluding "Father and Son," a "harmonica zydeco" tune on which John

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and Sean Carey trade off on leads and rhythm with great dexterity and whimsy (dig the snippet of "California Sun," originally recorded by New Orleans son Joe Jones) and a commitment to keep booties wagging.

Carey and Piano Bob make a formidable team. Add a superb crew of Crescent City musical experts to the mix, and you'll feel like you were indeed "Back in New Orleans," even if you've never set foot in the Big Easy.

John Carey and Piano Bob will perform at CD release parties for *Back in New Orleans* on June 12 at Chef John's in Jupiter and June 26 at Tobacco Road in Miami. For more information, visit Pianobob.net.





SPOTLIG

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND PLAZA THEATRE, ORLANDO/JUNE 1 CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH/JUNE 3

Any music fan who travels to New Orleans knows they can't miss Preservation Hall, the legendary site in the French Quarter that's housed the Preservation Hall Jazz Band since it opened in 1961. But even if you can't go to the Big Easy to see the band, it may just visit an area near you. Originally run by tuba player and Hall founder Allan Jaffe, the popular touring act is now directed by his son, bassist and tuba player Ben Jaffe. Its multigenerational makeup ranges from 36-year-old trumpeter Mark Braud to 77-year-old clarinetist/saxophonist Charlie Gabriel. Hurricane Katrina caused an extended closure of the hall in 2005-2006, commemorated on the 2007 CD



Made in New Orleans: The Hurricane Sessions, but the traditional Dixieland band's latest release is a star-studded call to keep its home open. Preservation: An Album to Benefit Preservation Hall and the Preservation Hall Music Outreach Program has the band in spirited performances with the likes of Tom Waits, Ani DiFranco, Pete Seeger, Merle Haggard, Richie Havens and Dr. John. BM

VINCENT GARDNER QUARTET THOMAS CENTER, GAINESVILLE/JUNE 1

Trombonist Vincent Gardner's latest solo recording is, quite literally, odd. *Three-Five* (Steeplechase) is named for its 3/4 and 5/4 time signatures on playful renditions of compositions like Wayne Shorter's "Tris" and "Sweet 'N' Sour"; Sonny Rollins' "Valse Hot"; Bobby Hutcherson's "Little B's Poem" and Bobby Timmons' "Dat Dere." The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra vet and Chicago native started out on violin, saxophone and French horn. However, he dedicated himself to trombone in high school, a decision bolstered by his meeting legendary jazz trombonist JJ. Johnson. Gardner joined Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra on the heels of his



1998-2000 tour with hip-hop vocalist Lauryn Hill. The trombonist boasts a solid touring quartet including pianist Kenny Drew Jr., bassist Rodney Jordan and drummer Randol Walton. **BM**



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JOHN CAREY & PIANO

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S P O T L I G H T

VALERIE GILLESPIE ENSEMBLE DELLA'S AFTER DARK, BRANDON JUNE 4-5, 25-26

Versatility and vocals may be the keys to singing multi-instrumentalist Valerie Gillespie's success. The Pennsylvania-born, Tampa-based touring artist is primarily known for her sax playing, since she majored in classical saxophone at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh and earned a master's in Jazz Saxophone from the University of South Florida, where she's since taught. Yet on her handful of fine recordings (*Branded*, Once Again, It Takes a Village), she not only plays all four varieties of sax—soprano, alto, tenor and baritone—but also flute, alto flute, piccolo and clarinet. Gillespie's vocal stylings range



from Shirley Horn and Nancy Wilson to Diane Schuur and Diana Krall. All of which has resulted in work with artists from Chick Corea and Bobby McFerrin to Rosemary Clooney and Ray Charles. Gillespie is one of only a few performers who could play with a classical orchestra, jazz combo and church group, all over the course of a weekend, BM

NICHOLAS PAYTON QUINTET MINIACI PAC, FORT LAUDERDALE/JUNE 12

Trumpeter Nicholas Payton is as synonymous with his hometown of New Orleans as he is with his instrument. And that's largely because of the tradition of heralded trumpeters—from Buddy Bolden and Louis Armstrong to Wynton Marsalis and Terence Blanchard—who preceded him in the Crescent City. Payton's latest recording, *Into the Blue* (Nonesuch), features his impeccable tone and interaction with a stellar cast of musicians. The disc exemplifies the trumpeter's heritage, and also displays the teachings of one of the patriarchs of modern New Orleans jazz. Pianist Ellis Marsalis (Wynton's father) taught Payton at the University of New Orleans, and the elder statesman also schooled



the trumpet prodigy by letting him sit in at his area gigs. (Payton's father, bassist Walter Payton, served a similar function for young New Orleans musicians.) Payton's touring group features pianist Lawrence Fields, bassist Ben Williams, drummer Corey Fonville and percussionist Daniel Sadownick. BM





Get your signed CD at a CD Release Party Saturday, June 12 • 9PM Chef John's 287 E Indiantown Road, Jupiter Saturday, June 26 • 10PM Tobacco Road 626 S Miami Avenue, Miami Listen online at louisianamusicfactory.com



upstairs at our fine dining restaurant, The UpperDeck. And be sure to check out our Back Bay Tiki Bar for a tropical cocktail while listening to some of the area's finest musicians on our outdoor stage. Boston's... something for everyone!

SPOTLIGHT

MATT HILL AND THE BUZZKILLZ BRADFORDVILLE BLUES, TALLAHASSEE/JUNE 25 BACK ROOM, BOCA/JUNE 26 ACE'S LOUNGE, BRADENTON/JUNE 27

Matt Hill's music gleefully celebrates bad behavior. On "Stolen Bride Blues," the North Carolina-based bluesman takes great joy in seducing "a pretty little girl on her wedding day," and on "Red Boots" you can almost hear his, uh, eyes pop when he sees his baby in her tight-fitting thigh-highs. "If you're into evil," he sings on the frisky "Hells Bells," you're a friend of mine." (Hear 'em at Myspace.com/matthilblues.) And, if you're into raunchy-sounding country blues with a greasy, rockabilly feel, Hill and his Buzzkillz stock your brand. Cat's got bona fides, too: He's served as sideman to blues



royalty such as Pinetop Perkins, Bob Margolin and Hubert Sumlin, no doubt absorbing much of what these giants have to teach. In addition to Hill's howling, countrified vocals and expertise on standard and lap-steel guitars, the Buzzkills feature the string-blurring leads of guitarist Max Drake, the doghouse bass of FJ Ventre and the versatile drumming of Chuck Cotton. BW



Friday, June 11, 9pm KT Kenny Band

Friday, June 18, 9pm Tommy Lee Cook and The Allstars

saturday, June 26, 9pm Rastus Kane Band

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ALICE DAY SOUTH FLORIDA JAZZ HALL OF FAME CONCERT AMERICAN LEGION HALL, MIAMI/JUNE 4

South Florida jazz fans fondly remember when Alice Day was our best-kept secret, charming audiences with a bluesy, brassy style that could seduce you, break your heart or bowl you over with its sheer gospel intensity. However, the Miami native found greater opportunities overseas. She's lived in Bangkok for years now, and is more likely to be playing in Dubai than in Dade. Home now for an extended stay, Day has been in front of local audiences once again, and will be on hand to host the South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Last year, a field of six notables was chosen: saxophonists Cannonball Adderley and



Jesse Jones Jr., radio host China Valles, jazz club enterpriser Lenny Zeif, steel-pan virtuoso Othello Molineaux and Day herself. This year's ceremony will officially install these major contributors to the local jazz scene, as well as announce four more inductees for 2011. Day will be joined in concert by an all-star roster of inductees and other guests for what should be a real treat. **BW**

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SPOTLIGHT

IKO-IKO

MAGUIRE'S, FORT LAUDERDALE/JUNE 4 FRITZ AND FRANZ, CORAL GABLES/JUNE 11 VAN DYKE CAFE, MIAMI BEACH/JUNE 14

Graham Drout was playing Chicago blues and R&B in Miami before there really was a blues scene in South Florida. His Fat Chance Blues Band evolved into Iko-Iko in 1983, as Drout expanded his concept, blending traditional blues with Americana and other forms and truly stretching his highly individualistic songwriting chops. Over the years, the band has borne the imprint of its fluctuating lineups, going from dual-lead guitar jam band to tight blues combo, although Drout's growling vocals and image-laden lyrics always remain central. The band's current lineup features the ever-



amazing "Good Rockin' Johnny" Wenzel on guitar, Mitch Mestel on bass and Daniel East on drums. Iko has also been given a great infusion of energy with the addition of keyboardist Ron Taylor, a true virtuoso who adds some lightning organ licks to the proceedings. Taylor urgently needs a kidney donor; anyone who can help is urged to contact the band at LSR@iko-iko.com. BW

T.I.E. Records presents CD Release Concert for the new Jamie Ousley CD "Back Home"



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MATT "GUITAR" MURPHY with THE NOUVEAUX HONKIES TOBACCO ROAD, MIAMI/JUNE 19

Matt "Guitar" Murphy's signature sound mixes Memphis, Chicago and Delta traditions, his sweetly stinging licks following his life's journey through those regions. From playing juke houses in his native Sunflower, Miss., to working in Howlin' Wolf's band in Memphis and then teaming up with Memphis Slim in Chicago, Murphy has been a vital and deeply influential part of blues history. His sophisticated, jazzy licks, as well as the depth of his down-home blues, earned him spots on classic Chess recording sessions with everyone from Sonny Boy Williamson to Etta James. Of course, Murphy's greatest visibility came from his role in *The*



Blues Brothers movies. At the age of 80, the Miami resident is still going strong. On June 11, he'll reunite with his old road buddy, James Cotton, for a headlining performance at the Chicago Blues Festival. For his Miami show, Murphy will be joined by No. 1 fan, Tim O'Donnell and O'Donnell's excellent band, The Nouveaux Honkies. Iko-Iko also share the bill. BW

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Friday 25	Nouveaux Honkies	
Saturday 26	AZ Kenny Tsak & 56 Deluxe	
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