

John Salmon Trio

John Salmon, piano
Thomas Taylor, drums
Steve Haines, bass



Telephone: (336) 334-5431

E-mail: jcsalmon@uncg.edu

The John Salmon Trio is a jazz group consisting of John Salmon (piano), Steve Haines (bass), and Thomas Taylor (drums), all of whom are faculty members at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music. The group has thrilled audiences in the US and abroad. Its most extensive and exotic tour was in China, April-May 2007, with 10 concerts in 7 cities. They also toured Moldova and Ukraine (2003) and have given concerts throughout the southeastern United States. John Salmon is a renowned classical and jazz pianist, who has performed on four continents and whose recordings are broadcast regularly throughout the US and in 15 countries. The John Salmon Trio performs a wide variety of jazz standards, from Cole Porter's "Just One of Those Things" to originals such as Salmon's Latin number, "Mambo Madness."

John Salmon Trio

Critiques

“John Salmon’s arrangement of *As Time Goes By* by Herman Hupfeld was a hit with the larger-than-normal audience...quite a hot session. Each player had his chance to shine, cadenza-like, and the ensemble improvisation was on a high level.”

Classical Voice of North Carolina
(www.cvnc.org)

“John Salmon’s jazz ensemble was loved by the audience for its versions of Dave Brubeck’s *Take Five* and Henry Mancini’s *Moon River*. I loved the ebullient energy and superprofessionalism of this group.”

Jurnal de Chisinau
(Chisinau, Moldova)

“John Salmon’s jazz group entertained the large crowd with interpretive cohesion, offering both original compositions and mainstream standards.”

Weekly Mirror
(Odessa, Ukraine)

"Upon beginning his jazz improvisations, the pianist confessed that his problem was not knowing when to quit. According to the response from the audience, he could have continued until the early morning hours."

La Nación
(San José, Costa Rica)

“The John Salmon group played two swinging sets. Led by Salmon’s glissando-strewn piano runs and anchored by Taylor and Haines’s witty, lyrical conversations, the combo ran through a diverse mix of genres—Cole Porter, “Moon River,” bossa nova from Antonio Carlos Jobim, a gospel rave-up, a solo piano fusion of two Dave Brubeck pieces. Salmon is a Brubeck devotee, so it’s no surprise that the band was rhythmically very tight, or that they delighted in odd time signatures. The musicians silently joked around onstage, and were animated in the way that only old friends can be around each other.”

<http://quietbubble.typepad.com>
(Jackson, Mississippi, USA)

"Today we watched the JOHN SALMON jazz group at our music school [Shenyang Conservatory]. It was absolutely amazing! This is the best concert I have had during my four years of college. I am so glad that our music school could invite a first-class performance group like them. For each individual musician, there is no doubt of their technique. On the other hand, they are so well coordinated. But after all, the thing most worth learning is that they are thoroughly immersed in their music, full of freedom, relaxation, as if they were having fun all the time."

<http://space.menllo.com/tanxin/blog/56486/>

(Shenyang, China)

"Salmon's rapport with the piano is formidable...brilliant performance."

Indianapolis Arts Insight
(Indianapolis, Indiana, USA)

"What mastery and virtuosity this pianist possesses."

La Suisse
(Geneva, Switzerland)

"Acquaintance With a Piano Sovereign"

Badische Zeitung
(Freiburg, Germany)

"A remarkable personality, an extraordinary talent, and a sum of qualities which inspires admiration of which only true musicians are worthy."

Commercio do Porto
(Porto, Portugal)

"A tremendous pianist"

El País
(Madrid, Spain)

"Brilliant Performance by Salmon"

Il Piccolo
(Trieste, Italy)

John Salmon Trio

TYPICAL PROGRAM

Just One Of Those Things	Cole Porter (1891-1964)
Night and Day	Cole Porter
Small Diamond	John Salmon (b. 1954)
Moon River	Henry Mancini (1924-1994)
For Ray	Steve Haines (b. 1971)

INTERMISSION

Mambo Madness	John Salmon
Off Minor	Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)
Bossa Bachiana	John Salmon
I Got Rhythm	George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Program Notes

Cole Porter (1891-1964) is one of the most popular composers of the United States. “Just One of Those Things” was a song he composed in 1935 for the Broadway musical *Jubilee*. “Night & Day” was first made famous by the American actor Fred Astaire in the 1934 film *The Gay Divorcee*. John Salmon’s version of “Night & Day” is intended to evoke the mystical musical language of French composer Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992).

“Small Diamond” is John Salmon’s musical reaction to the Ilya Bolotowsky painting of the same name. Cast as a little fugue, “Small Diamond” emphasizes linearity and symmetry.

“Moon River,” Henry Mancini’s song from the 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*.

“For Ray” is Steve Haines’ tribute to Ray Codrington, a hard bop trumpet player and recording artist for the Bluenote jazz record company 1960s. “Hard bop” is a style of jazz from the late 1950s and early 1960s emphasizing intense, hard-driving rhythms.

“Mambo Madness” is John Salmon’s interpretation of the mambo, a lively Cuban dance, made even livelier because of its seven beats to the measure. (Most mambos are in 4/4 meter.)

“Off Minor” is a jazz classic from the idiosyncratic pen of jazz’s quirkiest master, Thelonious Monk. Is it in a major or minor key? Ambiguity rules.

“Bossa Bachiana” was originally for a women’s choir and jazz trio, and evokes the worlds of both Bach chorales and Brazilian bossa novas.

“I Got Rhythm” is one of the most famous songs ever composed by George Gershwin, one of America’s most popular composers. It comes from the 1930 Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*. The harmonies are often used by jazz musicians as a basis over which to improvise, and are normally called “Rhythm changes” (the chord changes or chord progression from “I Got Rhythm”).