



Left Coastin'

SOPHISTICATED LADY **Jazz** QUARTET

MISHA ADAIR BIGOS, PIANO

ANDREW JAMES BOYLE, DRUMS

JJ KIRKPATRICK, TRUMPET

GARY WICKS, BASS

Left Coastin' Gary Wicks

Flutterby Girl Gary Wicks

Hello Gary Wicks

Stumbling Misha Bigos

Kudos to Sophisticated Lady for some of the most intelligent and soulful playing I've heard in a long while. Mr. Wicks is clearly the Stephane Grappelli of the bass. Mr. Boyle's atomic clock accuracy was outshone only by his remarkable sensitivity and nuanced "drumist" vocabulary. Mr. Kirkpatrick's winsome lines... took us beyond the trumpet and through the gamut of melody-instrument domains. And Mr. Bigos' hands fell lacelike over his ivories with the finesse... of traditional Portuguese tating amid a rainbow of colored threads.

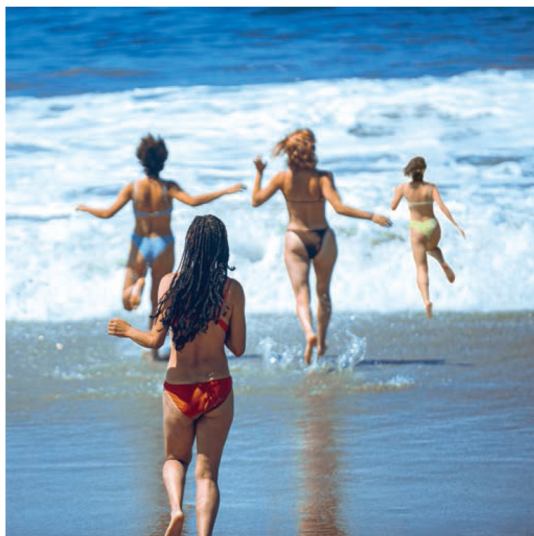
—Peter Rutenberg

I like "Sophisticated Lady." A unique voice. Great improvising. One can hear everything on this recording, all the nuances and textures. I can really listen to this music because they have their own classic style. So much jazz is all the same today. "Sophisticated Lady" is refreshing.

—Billy Mitchell

Did I mention that each of the tracks was also cut in one take apiece? That's right, one take. Knowing this is a strong testament to the talent, passion, and technical prowess of this amazing ensemble, even before one embarks on the satisfying journey delivered by the music itself. The group's front man is trumpeter **JJ Kirkpatrick** (Portland), and already in his budding career, he boasts performances with Wynton Marsalis, Beyoncé, and Louis CK.... Kirkpatrick's playing brings the best of Terence Blanchard and early Miles Davis (1949-1954), meaning that his voice is always powerfully sweet without being overly brassy.... Pianist **Misha Adair Bigos** (Seattle) delivers gorgeous chord progressions, comping, and solo ideas throughout the album, altering his style -- from percussive to tender -- to fit the musical mood of each piece. Admirers of piano legends such as Bill Evans and Tommy Flanagan will immediately recognize these influences in his work on the album, but also find

l to r: Altea Reed, Niazayre Bates, Kaja Grujic, Altea Reed



that he brings a compelling voice all his own that commands attention. [The quartet] is expertly supported by bassist **Gary Wicks** (Albany), who also serves as one of the group's very skilled arrangers, and is a five-year veteran of touring with the critically-acclaimed Manhattan Transfer. Wicks' playing, in the spirit of bass royalty Scott LaFaro, Charles Mingus, and Chuck Israels, is right on the money in allowing the listener to "feel" the bass, instead of "overly hear" it. His bass lines are fresh [and] weave a perfect carpet for soloists to strut upon.... Drummer **Andrew James Boyle** (Los Angeles) is a regular student of the great Peter Erskine at USC and between performances remains busy as a teacher in his own right. I am reminded a lot of Philly Joe Jones' style in his playing; it is understated but still accented and punchy in the classic "bebop" style. Regardless, Mr. Boyle is always in the pocket, deftly partnered with Mr. Wicks' bass, and even in expressing himself behind the drum kit, never imposes a percussive stumbling block to his fellow bandmates' ideas. This is the drummer that every jazz musician wants in his or her group: a sensitive artist that listens as well as he plays.

—Kathryn Ballard Shut

This album proudly bears the seal and endorsement of the Los Angeles and Orange County Audio Society. President **Mike Wechsberg**, Chairman **Robert Levi** and the society's multi-year collaboration with Yarlung have enabled joint concerts and recordings to reach larger audiences; indeed many on Yarlung's technical team and board of directors are members of the Audio Society. Yarlung musicians join us in expressing our appreciation.

We owe hearty thanks to our magnificent executive producers Diane & Craig Martin, who not only support many of Yarlung's vinyl and digital releases but have also hosted concerts and patron dinners with our musicians. Craig also chairs Yarlung's board of directors. Recent releases honored with Craig's and Diane's generous support include *Lifeline: Music of the Underground Railroad* and four volumes of Yuko Mabuchi's jazz LPs that continue to sell out all over the world. Craig and Diane started with two volumes of *Yuko Mabuchi Trio* and followed with two LPs named *Yuko Mabuchi plays Miles Davis*.

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BOB ATTIYEH, PRODUCER

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Thank you Craig and Diane!
Your zest for life and music
inspire me and our fortunate
musicians every day.

Left Coastin' celebrates bass player and composer Gary Wicks who composed and led improvisations on three of the four tunes on this LP. Pianist Misha Adair Bigos helps us wrap up a busy day and stumble into a quiet night with the last track. The quartet rehearsed and performed some of these tunes before our concert and recording but many are the first time through; the quartet discussed the tunes and who would take what solo in which order but without rehearsal. I wanted the intensity of raw improvisation. This is possible when superb musicians tackle new material together, listening carefully to each other and playing as a single organism. Music cannot get fresher than this. I am always grateful when musicians of this caliber share their talents with us.

—Bob Attiyeh, producer

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Cammilleri Hall at USC, October 24-26, 2013

Executive Producers: **Craig & Diane Martin**

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Made in Germany

l to r: JJ, Misha, Gary, Andrew

