

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE



AUGUST 2004

MICHAEL TRACY

Gusting

Sea Breeze Jazz SB-3071

The Mike Tracy Quintet features Craig Wagner on guitar, Phil DeGreg on piano, John Goldsby on bass, Jason Tiemann on drums, and Mike on tenor and soprano saxophone. Together, they represent the essence of mainstream jazz in today's society. As Professor of Music and Jazz at the University of Louisville School of Music in Louisville, Kentucky, Michael Tracy teaches saxophone and serves as Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program. Throughout his 28-year performing career, Mike has shared the stage as soloist with numerous all-stars. This evolving list includes Buddy Rich, J.J. Johnson, Ella Fitzgerald, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Bobby Shew, Jerry Coker, Pat La Barbera, and David Liebman.

"**Gusting**" starts off the session with a smooth, casual blend. Mike's tenor opens the album with lyrical persuasion. As he hands the melody over to guitar, piano, and then a bass/drums trading scene, Mike steers the quintet over its lush landscape. With soprano saxophone on "**Jog Left**," he introduces a perky theme that runs high and bright. The piece contains a majesty that lingers. Modern in its concept, the song gives the quintet plenty of room to explore. The timbral blend of Mike's soprano and Craig's mellow guitar keeps things running high and mighty on "**And Sometimes Why**," an arrangement that maximizes their cohesiveness. Mike's fluid cascades and seamless phrasing carry the quintet over a lofty route, swinging lightly this way and that, as Craig complements alongside. "**Alone and Away**" adopts a lovely bossa nova rhythm behind Mike's tenor. Cool and comfortable, the quintet takes the listener for an unforgettable stroll along the shoreline of some remote isle. John solos on his "**In the Hills**," with a lyrical bass outing that adds dramatic tension to the program. As the quintet interprets this piece, you get a firm grasp of the contrast between subtle fire and relaxed motion. Here, Mike's tenor and John's bass advocate subtle tension, while piano and guitar complete the flip side with contrasting smooth facades. Throughout its interpretation, the piece's built-in harmony retains its dramatic charm. "**Julia's Swing**" bounces with rhythmic perspicacity, as it twists and turns along a spontaneous path. "**Sergio**" turns exotic with a light, samba rhythm, as "**Bern Waltz**" floats tenderly along a pulsing river of relaxed enjoyment. "**Note to Self**" pairs tenor and guitar in another quirky piece that draws upon the influence of Monk. Light and spontaneous, the quintet drives this one home with an enthusiastic high. As Phil's powerful piano solo blazes a trail for John's luscious bass romp, you can feel the energy flying in all directions at once. The outré piece romps with enthusiasm and leads to much fun. Closing with "**Sweet and Lovely**," the quintet improvises over a familiar melody for an extended period. Mike's tenor saxophone expresses with firm reassurance, as he recalls tradition and pushes forward at the same time. His love of mainstream jazz ensures that the music will continue to grow from its earliest roots to favored excursions along new currents.

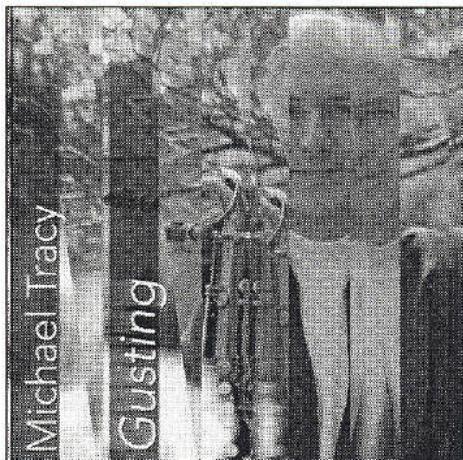
This recording is now available on CD (SB-3071) at \$15. list. Bar code is - 0-17231-30712-9
P.O. Box 1910 • Pismo Beach, CA 93448-1910 • (805) 489-2055 • www.seabreezerecords.com
Also visit us at www.otterdist.com

SEA BREEZE RECORDS®

ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF

"GUSTING"

By Michael Tracy



THIS CD MARKS MIKE TRACY'S FULL EMERGENCE AS A SAXOPHONE SOLOIST FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE BEST OF THE JAZZ TRADITION. HIS COMPANIONS IN THE QUINTET ARE EACH WORLD-CLASS MUSICIANS IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS. MEMORABLE ORIGINALS, STRONG ENSEMBLE, INSPIRED SOLOS, A RHYTHM SECTION THAT DANCES AND SWINGS ... "GUSTING" IS THIS AND SO MUCH MORE.

Selections Include:

1. Gusting
2. Jog Left
3. And Sometimes Why
4. Alone And Away
5. In The Hills
6. Julia's Swing
7. Sergio
8. Bern Waltz
9. Note To Self
10. Sweet And Lovely

SUGGESTED LIST: \$15.00

SB-3071

UPC BAR CODED:



STREET DATE: Now Available

NOW ON:

Sea Breeze®
JAZZ

Distributed By:

Big Daddy Music Distributors (908) 653-9110
Harbor Records (914) 292-3334
Otter Distributors (805) 489-2055
CD One Stop (800) 388-8889
Abbey Road (800) 827-7177

North Country Distributors (315) 287-2852
AEC One Stop (800) 329-7664
Norwalk Distributors (800) 877-6021
Bassin (800) 329-7664
Baker & Taylor (800) 775-1800