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INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS SPOTLIGHT JAZZ

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DAVE FLIPPO – “DEDICATIONS – JAZZ FROM PLANET FLIPPO” – Opplif Records

Dave Flippo, piano/keyboard/melodica/composer; Donn De Santo, acoustic bass/fretless bass; Heath Chappell, drums; Aras Biskis, percussion; Dan Hesler, saxophones/flute.

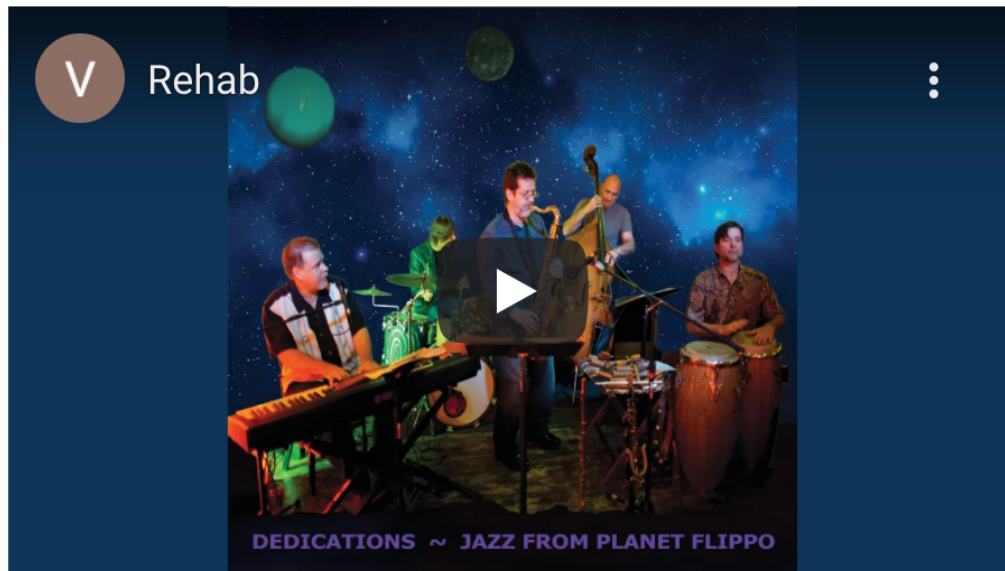
Dave Flippo's ensemble opens with a unique Flippo arrangement of Stevie Wonder's composition, "Too High." This is straight ahead jazz, lacing the 'hook' of Wonder's tune through the song like crochet needles; creating a rich, blanket of sound. This is the sixth album release for Dave Flippo and the premise was to compose songs that celebrated each of his extended-family bandmates and to celebrate his loved ones as well.

Dave was attracted to music and the piano early in life. He could read music notes before he could read words. Another interesting fact was that the Pittsburgh, PA native was drawn to jazz and classical music in his young years, when all his peers were listening to Rock 'n Roll. It seems he knew his life path practically from birth. Pursuing music academically, he earned a Master's degree at the Eastman School of Music and a Doctorate in Music Composition and Piano at the University of Michigan.

"After I got my doctorate, I wanted to challenge myself. Ann Arbor was a nice town, but it's small, without many opportunities for me to seriously apply my education. My choices were to go to either New York, Los Angeles or Chicago. Coming from Pitts burgh, I was already a mid-Westerner and I thought I'd be more at home in Chicago. It wound up working great for me and I've been there ever since," Dave Flippo shared in his press package.

Track 2 is titled "Finch House and was inspired by the finch birds that issue happy, cascading notes as they assault Dave's bird feeder. Arranged in 7/4 time, he admits that his notes are half as many as the birds actually sang in their flurries of arpeggios. Dave dedicates this piece to his daughter-in-law, Anh and Dan Hesler lays aside his saxophone and adds a flute to the arrangement.

Before Flippo began this project, he asked his musicians what kind of topics they wanted to include on this new album. His reedman, Dan Hesler, asked for a song about giraffes.



“Jazz From Planet Flippo” also covers the Radio Head tune, “Karma Police” dedicated to his daughter Gillian. Additionally, for his son Gabriel, Dave Flippo has composed and arranged “Freewheelin’,” an interesting tune based on a cycle of minor 7 chords, in the circle of fourths instead of the circle of fifths.



This is a musical platform for Dave Flippo to showcase inventiveness and expansive imagination, while writing, arranging and performing a list of “Dedications” to loved ones and his musical family.

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