



## Musical Dialogue with Lewis Nash & Steve Wilson

Drums/Percussion & Saxophones

There are no two better musicians on the jazz scene today to form a saxophone drum duo than **STEVE WILSON** and **LEWIS NASH**. They are two instrumentalists, both highly in demand as sidemen, whose playing is richly steeped in the history of jazz, and, they are leaders of their generation in continually charting new courses and moving jazz forward. This unique concept of saxophone and drum duo is an unconventional format that is not tackled by many musicians. But, when you pair together two musicians who have a long history together, share like musical concepts, and who have a natural chemistry, you have all the elements for incredible, spontaneous and creative jazz improvisation. Collectively, these two artists have been members of some of the landmark jazz bands in recent years, including the ensembles of Chick Corea, Betty Carter, Dave Holland, Tommy Flanagan, Mulgrew Miller, Ron Carter, Lionel Hampton, and Branford Marsalis. Separately, they each lead their own ensembles of some of the finest players on the jazz scene today.

A native of Hampton, Virginia, **Wilson** began his formal training at age 12 and played in various R&B and funk bands through his teens. While studying music at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, he had opportunities to perform and/or study with Jimmy and Percy Heath, Jon Hendricks, Jaki Byard, Frank Foster and Ellis Marsalis. In the summer of 1987 he moved to New York and career began to develop further the following year while working with Michele Rosewoman, Renee Rosnes and the American Jazz Orchestra and the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. Later that year he joined the Buster Williams Quintet, Something More. Since then, Wilson has recorded and/or toured for such diverse artists as Chick Corea, Dave Holland, Dianne Reeves, Charlie Byrd, Donald Brown, Kevin Hays, Kevin Mahogany, Bruce Barth, Dave Liebman, Louie Bellson, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Don Byron and Geoff Keezer. He has recorded 6 CDs as a leader, four on the Criss Cross Jazz label, his two most recent on Stretch Records. His latest recording, Passages, features his working band (Bruce Barth, Ed Howard and Adam Cruz). The Steve Wilson Quartet has travelled across the United States, and extensively throughout Europe.

Born December 30, 1958 in Phoenix, Arizona, **Lewis** developed an early interest in music and began playing the drums at age 10. At 18, he was performing with local jazz groups, as well as top name artists appearing in the Phoenix area. By the time he was 21, Lewis had become the 'first call' jazz drummer in Phoenix and had performed with Sonny Stitt, Art Pepper, Red Garland, Lee Konitz, Barney Kessel and Slide Hampton. In 1981, he moved to New York and joined the trio of jazz vocalist Betty Carter. For nearly four years, Lewis toured internationally with Ms. Carter. He is featured on three of her recordings, including Grammy-award winning "Look What I Got." Lewis has been invited to perform with a great many of the who's who in jazz including the bands of Ron Carter, Branford Marsalis, J.J. Johnson, the Don Pullen/George Adams Quartet, Sonny Rollins, Stan Getz, Art Farmer, Clark Terry and Milt Jackson. He was a member of the Tommy Flanagan Trio, and is featured on seven CD recordings with the piano master, including the Grammy-nominated, "Sea Changes." Along with those mentioned above, his impressive discography includes projects with jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson and Benny Carter as well as today's brightest new names including Diana Krall, Russell Malone and Regina Carter. He has one recording as a leader, "Rhythm is My Business" on the Evidence label. His all-star ensemble has performed in the United States and in Europe.

The duo made their debut at the Jazz Salon at the Loft at Quilty's in November of 2001. Soon after they traveled to Woodstock, NY to perform at the Colony Café. They recently performed at the Kaplan Playhouse in Lincoln Center and on the Sugar Loaf Music Series in Warwick, NY; and most recently at Sweet Rhythm in NYC. Audiences were delighted with their explorations of jazz standards and the spontaneity of creating a fresh new jazz repertoire, as well as being given an intimate peek into the creative process. Two of the most sought after musicians on the jazz scene, they are improvisation and creativity at its very best!