

## Mark Simon – jazz pianist/composer

Born in Chicago, jazz pianist Mark Simon has been delighting Northwest jazz audiences for over three decades now. His versatile touch combined with musical depth and soul gives people of all musical backgrounds something to appreciate.

Mark has performed at just about every Portland venue that has had jazz in the past 30 years. In addition, his music has been heard at the Seattle Opera House (twice), Cathedral Park jazz festival, Mount Hood Festival of Jazz (six times) and the Rose festival. Mark won critical acclaim and heavy airplay with his 1995 CD release *Portland Nights* featuring eight Simon originals.



Highlights in Mark's career include:

- ▶ Integral member of the Leroy Vinegar trio along with Mel Brown (4 years)
- ▶ Integral member of the Hadley Caliman Quartet (6 months)
- ▶ Concert performances with Bud Shank, Jeff Clayton, Joshua Breakstone, and Julie Kelly
- ▶ Sitting in with many notable jazz artists including; Herb Ellis, Teddy Edwards, Red Holloway, Harry Connick Jr., Jeff Tain Watts and Russell Malone

Over the past 30 years Mark has played with a virtual Who's Who of the Portland jazz scene; Leroy Vinegar, Mel Brown, Ron Steen, Shirley Nanette, Rob Thomas, Ben Wolf, Dan Balmer, Nancy King, Dick Berk, Dave Captein, Gary Hobbs, Dan Faehnele, and countless others.

## Portland Nights

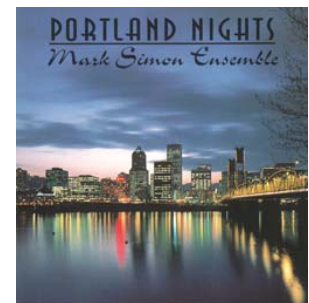
*"A regular with Leroy Vinnegar's trio, Simon branches out on his own with a sophisticated, lyrical album called "Portland Nights." Paul Mazzio's fluid flugelhorn and trumpet lines highlight Simon's lovely compositional sense, while the Dave Captein/Gary Hobbs rhythm section adds a sensitive spark."*

- **Marty Hughley** - The Oregonian

Mark's debut CD, **Portland Nights**, features eight Simon originals that collectively explore a wide range of the jazz spectrum. Collaborating with Mark on the CD are topnotch jazz musicians.

Drummer **Gary Hobbs** has been one of the hardest-working, in-demand percussionists in the Northwest for years, supplying rock-steady time and flexible, creative approaches to rhythm. Hobbs was with the **Stan Kenton Orchestra** and in the 70's, has played with **Tower of Power**, has worked as a clinician for **Yamaha Drums** and has played on a number of local, regional and nation recordings.

Bassist **Dave Captein** has traveled in both classical and jazz worlds while winning awards and scholarships for his technical prowess on both acoustic and electric bass. He has worked with a variety of national artists, including; **Mose Allison**, **Art Lande**, **Richie Cole**, **Red Holloway**, **Ernestine Anderson**, **Larry Coryell**, **Dave Frishberg** and **Tom Grant**.



Trumpeter **Paul Mazzio**'s credits range from three years with **Woody Herman's Thundering Herd**, **Rosemary Clooney** and **Teresa Brewer** to gigs with **Mel Torme**, **Tony Bennett**, **Natalie Cole**, **Sarah Vaughan**, **Joe Williams**, **Nelson Riddle** and others.

Producer **Michael Bard** also contributes his soprano sax talents to the title track of *Portland Nights*. Also a native of Chicago, he was part of the oft-recorded **Simon & Bard** contemporary jazz group and prior to that directed the ground-breaking nine-piece band **Matrix**. Bard also played in the **Stan Kenton Orchestra** in the late 70's. He currently operates **Studio Bard**, writing, producing and licensing music for TV, films and commercials.

## Mark Simon Trio

*"Mark is an eloquent and energetic player and composer in the bebop tradition. His years with Leroy Vinnegar certainly are evident and have left their mark with a strong rhythmic approach to the trio sound"*

- **Gordon Lee** - pianist, composer and recording artist

Take Mark Simon's heart felt jazz piano interpretations and award winning compositions, add to it Dave Averre's impeccable sense of timing and musicianship, mix in Leah Hinchcliff's big ears and keen intuition and you have the Mark Simon Trio.

This trio doesn't just play songs, they clearly communicate feelings. Listeners identify with the emotion of the moment whether it is joy, reflection, folly, seriousness, wonderment or blueness.

This music is easy to listen to, attracting fans that might otherwise not care for jazz. However, this music is also embedded with deep substance providing appeal for the serious jazz listener.



Drummer/composer Dave Averre was born in Pennsylvania, and graduated from The College of New Jersey with a degree in Music Education. Dave has collaborated with a variety of artists as a freelance drummer and studio musician in New York City. Dave resided in Scandinavia for two years, where in addition to other prestigious gigs, he performed at the internationally acclaimed *Molde Jazz Festival*, and *Voss Jazz Festival* every year.

Leah Hinchcliff has been a professional musician for over 20 years and is widely recognized as one of the NW's premier bassists. As a first call studio musician she has recorded with many of the NW's top recording artists including Swamp Mama Johnson, Nicole Campbell, Mark Bosnian, Nu Shooz and Body & Soul. As a member of the successful Indie band Swamp Mama Johnson, voted Seattle's Best Band (1999), she toured North America and sold over 40,000 records. Leah has backed up rock and roll legend Bo Diddley as well as emerging national artist Tracy Grammer.