

NYSQ (NEW YORK STANDARDS QUARTET) THE NEW STRAIGHT AHEAD

Front Cover



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Inside Left

NYSQ



the new straight ahead

Every artist pursues an individual direction in crafting and developing an original voice. One of the defining characteristics of jazz, though, is that musicians come together and create something that is unique to that particular group of players, a whole greater than the sum of its parts. In other words, bands are where it's at—and at a jazz club the collective pursuit of a sound is more important than individual heroics.

The first thing to say about NYSQ is that we are a band. We have stayed together for 8 years, during the most tumultuous period in the history of the recording business. During that time, we have toured two to four times a year in the US, Europe and Japan, and this disc is our fourth release. We founded the group after a weekend at Smalls Jazz Club revealed that we shared a love for playing standards, and a hunger to reinterpret them in ways that tapped the creativity of the contemporary jazz language of New York City in the 21st century.

In redesigning familiar songs, we found that we could offer listeners an entry point to the music we present, while simultaneously generating the creative energy that comes from exploring new territory.

The New Straight Ahead

Over the last decade the level of technical sophistication of the average jazz musician has risen exponentially. It is now commonplace for musicians to get together, call a tune, and decide on the spot to play it in an odd meter, or a combination of meters. Until recently, playing straight ahead basically meant playing familiar music in a familiar style — mostly playing standards in 4/4 or 3/4. These days, playing a standard in 5/4 or 7/4 has become commonplace. Add to that the continuing search for new harmonic colors and forms and you have a "new straight ahead." The NYSQ strives to play music that flows from past tradition, looks forward into the future and lives in the present.

We are proud to present the music of a group of peers who have stuck together through tough economic times, and have discovered their group identity through trial and error on the bandstand. During the inevitable frustrations of road life, our drummer, Gene Jackson, has provided the emotional glue for the band, urging us not to give up, and to stay on target. "There are not enough bands in jazz these days, and we have one, so we have to continue to push forward..." has been his steady refrain.

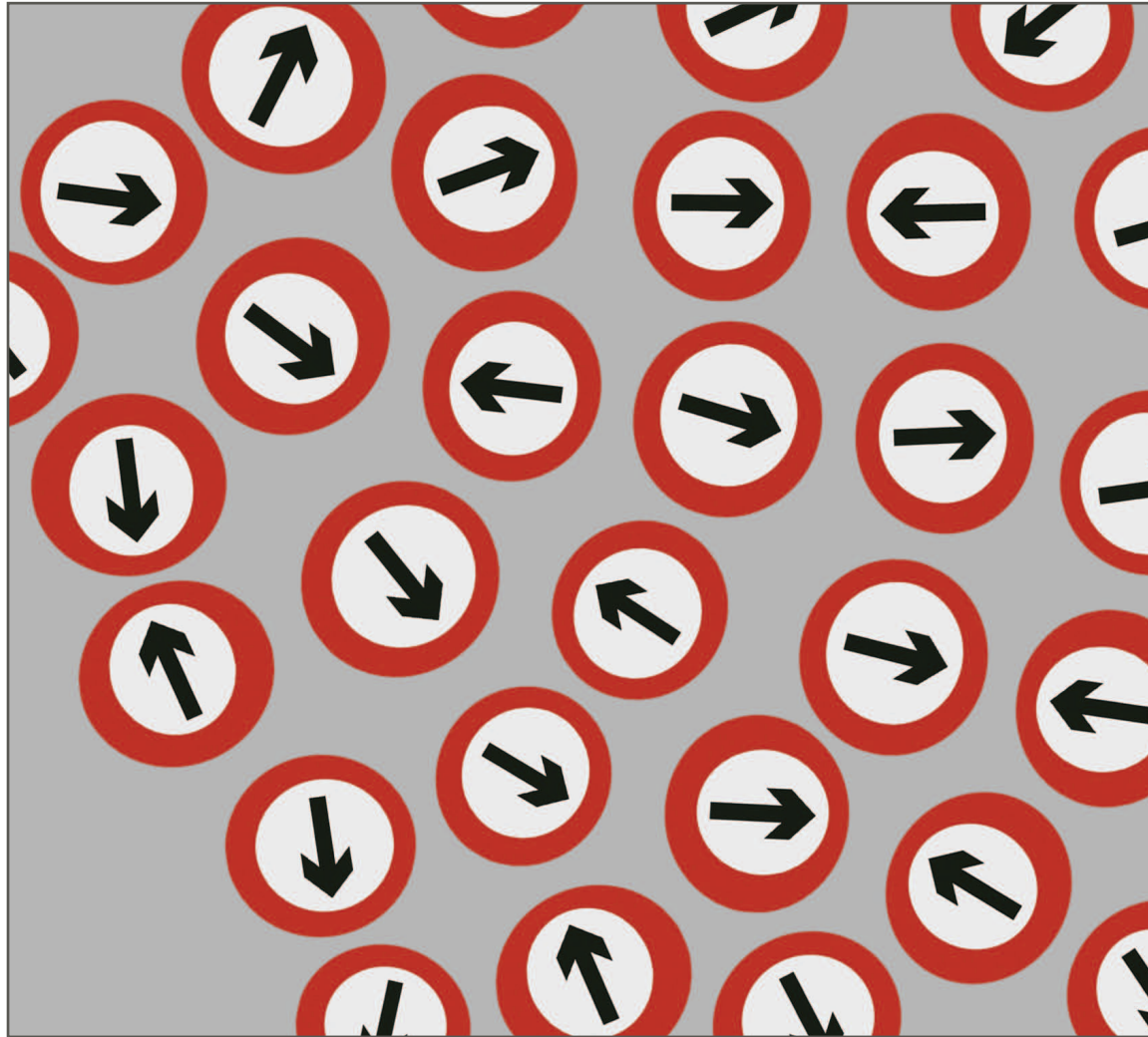
Our favorite recent compliment came from a listener at the famous Tokyo nightclub, Body and Soul. He said,

"I can hear each guy doing his own thing, but you're doing it together."

NYSQ hopes you enjoy the sound of our collective pursuit.

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Back Cover

NYSQ

(New York Standards Quartet)

the new straight ahead

Tim Armacost **tenor & soprano saxophones**
David Berkman **piano**
Daiki Yasukagawa **double bass**
Gene Jackson **drums**

Recorded at Music Inn Studio, Yamanakako, Japan
Engineered by Toshihiro Shimizu
Mixed (Sept '13) & mastered (March '14) by
Katsuhiko Naito at Avatar Studios, NYC
Produced by NYSQ
Executive Producer Michael Janisch

Cover artwork concept Gene Jackson
Album design www.unpluggeddesign.co.uk

www.whirlwindrecordings.com
www.nysq.org

Tim Armacost uses AMT Microphones, and is a D'Addario
Performing Artist using Rico Royal reeds exclusively.
Gene Jackson plays Pearl Drums & Zildjian Sticks
and Cymbals exclusively.



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1. Intro (Polkadots) 0:46
2. The Maze 7:35
3. It Don't Mean a Thing 6:13
4. When You Wish Upon a Star 4:00
5. Autumn Leaves 6:20
6. Misterioso 7:48
7. Ah-leu-cha 7:48
8. Zingaro 4:06
9. Remember 4:54
10. Outro (and Moonbeams) 0:49

Total playing time 50:47
All songs arranged by the NYSQ





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CD Artwork

