



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JAZZ ALTO SAXOPHONIST LANNY MORGAN DEBUTS ‘6,’ LIVE AND RECORDED

LOS ANGELES, March 20, 2009--Alto saxophonist **Lanny Morgan** has released the recording he’s been promising himself for years--an old master with a new sextet, named “**6**.” The CD, also titled “**6**,” documents several of many Morgan-penned originals, “just waiting for the right opportunity to ‘go on record,’” he said.

Others of his tunes were recorded earlier in small group settings, but never before presented by the recently established “**6**.” The decision was made to “go for it before I get any older,” he said of the sextet, his favorite size group for writing and performing.

So just before his 75th birthday (March 30), the old master and his five old friends played the CD contents live at the first annual conference of the California Alliance For Jazz (CAJ), releasing the fresh-off-the-presses copies of “**6**” at the same time. The event was held in Ontario, California, and included a three-day agenda directed by CAJ President Jeff Tower, in conjunction with The California Association of Music Education (CMEA).

Completing the group are **Bob Summers** (trumpet), **Doug Webb** (tenor sax), **Tom Ranier** (piano), **Chuck Berghofer** (bass) and **Steve Schaeffer** (drums), fellow “old masters” -- some older than others, but all masters in their own right.

“**6**” by The Lanny Morgan Sextet (ACM Records 30109) was recorded January 29 & 30, 2009, at LMP Studios in Claremont, California. Tracking and Mix Engineer Jim Linahon is also owner of the studio, which boasts a stellar reputation and several Grammy-nominated recordings. For more information, the label and recording studio can be accessed at www.acmrecords-impstudios.com. LMP Studios also handled graphics and layout. Cover art and original logo for “**6**” was created by Anna Simic. The liners, written by Morgan, provide brief descriptions of the tunes, a couple of which suggest tongue-in-cheek compositions.

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The complete book of Morgan originals includes the popular and often recorded “Friends Again.” While not appearing on “6,” it’s worth mentioning both for its familiarity and “first-ness.” The tune debuted on his quintet album titled “It’s About Time,” along with the title tune “It’s About Time,” “Acapulco Hot” and “Bagatelle,” which is on the current CD. The 1981 Palo Alto Records project (PAJ 007) was the first-ever label-backed recording bearing his name as leader. It was produced by the legendary Dr. Herb Wong, who said in his liners: “Far too many years have elapsed since Lanny Morgan, one of the handful of great jazz alto saxophonists, has recorded his own music with his own group.”

About the tunes on “6”

Morgan says:

Minor March is a Jackie McClean tune that was shown to me by an alto playing friend with whom I had a quintet in the ‘70s. It’s like *Night in Tunisia* backward.

213 Ocean Front is the address of a beach house in Venice, California belonging to a trumpet playing friend. A lot of us hung out there, listening to records, etc.

Pole Cat is another word for “skunk” in Iowa, where I spent my first 10 years. I thought the title fit.

Between Races is a Chuck Mangione piece. We recorded it with Maynard’s sextet, and I’ve always liked it, so we did it again here.

Little Folks was written for my son and daughter when they were 4 & 2 respectively. It does have some words. It starts: “Little folks laugh and sing and play – and while away the day.” You get it.

Bagatelle. I recorded this on my first album (Palo Alto Records) with a quintet, but I wanted to do it with the sextet because that’s what it was written for.

Bird Song is a Thad Jones tune. I heard it on a J.J. Johnson record and it was love at first hearing. I took it off the record and wrote it out for sextet.

Rollin’. The title comes from the way the tune affects me. Beginning with the rhythm section, it just feels free and, well—rollin’.

Pail Blues – just a play on words. Maybe I should rethink this one.

Idyllwild Camp Parade is an attempt to mimic a New Orleans parade. I was teaching at the Idyllwild Jazz Camp when I wrote it, thus the title.

About Lanny Morgan

“I moved to NYC in March 1960 to join Maynard Ferguson’s band and played with his band and sextet until he left New York in 1966. I played with many people during my nine years in NYC, including a two-year stint with jazz legend Howard McGhee’s big band, of which Steve Schaeffer was also a member. New York had such an exciting and vital jazz scene in the ‘60s, and I was privileged to play a small part in it. I was around so much great music during those

years, and I tried to absorb it all. I hope some of it shows a little in these tunes.”

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'6' = Morgan, Summers, Webb, Ranier, Berghofer, Schaeffer

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Morgan's signature sound has endured from his early years with Maynard Ferguson through decades of prominence with other bands and as leader of his own small groups. Since the '60s, his career has spanned an A-Z list of involvement with everyone notable in the recent history of jazz—Supersax, Bill Holman, Frank Capp's Juggernaut, to name a few. A significant endorsement of his earned respect was the prestigious guest spot in a 2004 program titled "Bird Lives," a tribute to revered alto saxman Charlie Parker. The program spotlighted Morgan in a performance with members of the Pasadena Symphony, reproducing the famous recording of "Charlie Parker with Strings," and in a quartet setting, playing famous Parker tunes.

Overall, credits include TV, movie soundtracks, more than 100 albums, regular guest appearances throughout the U.K. and at major world festivals. Appearances at nearly 100 colleges and high schools coast-to-coast inspired of "Lanny's Licks," a book for beginning jazz improv students (Rheuben Publications). He has been an instructor for the past several years at Idyllwild Jazz Camp.

Morgan-led recordings are: "A Suite for Yardbird"(Fresh Sound FSR 5023 CD), "Pacific Standard" (Contemporary CCD 12085-2), "The Lanny Morgan Quartet" (VSOP #92), "It's About Time" (Quicksilver Records QSCD2024, Palo Alto Jazz Masters).

About the other 5 of "6"

Bob Summers cut his road chops with Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson and Count Basie. Later, The Horace Silver Brass Ensemble tapped his talent, and he since became a regular with Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band and Bill Holman's orchestra.

Doug Webb lists among his credits work with jazz names such as Horace Silver, Freddie Hubbard, Stanley Clarke, Quincy Jones, Kyle Eastwood, and Pancho Sanchez. A versatile reedman, he has several recordings of his own.

Tom Ranier is the "most wanted" piano player in town, not only in jazz but on major TV and film projects, as a composer and arranger as well. He, too, has played with all the jazz greats, too numerous to list, as a regular with Buddy DeFranco and Eddie Daniels, and with his own group of "3 Prime."

Chuck Berghofer came to prominence in the '60s on the jazz scene and in studios. From early days with Skinnay Ennis and Bobby Troup through legendary work with Herb Ellis, Shelly Manne, Zoot, Ella, Sarah, Sinatra, others, he maintained a presence as one of L.A.'s finest. He was one of the Pete Jolly Trio and remains a regular with Frank Capp's Juggernaut and more, bringing his fine, big-toned sound, solid time and passion to the music. *Note to editors, reviewers columnists: Berghofer is misspelled on the CD and cover art. No one could convince him to change his name to a double-f spelling to accommodate the error, but those in the know, know—that there's only one "f" and only one Chuck Berghofer.*

MORE—

Jazz masters assemble to deliver '6' on disc

4-4-4

Steve Schaeffer's unparalleled reputation as a jazz drummer began at age 17 with Al Cohn and Zoot Sims and continued with a roster of such as Joe Henderson, Sarah, Randy & Michael Brecker. He, like the rest of this group, has logged many hours with film, TV, recordings and live productions.

"6" by The Lanny Morgan Sextet is available direct from www.acmrecords, and CDBaby. Lanny Morgan himself can be reached at lannymorgansax@gmail.com, through his Web Site, www.lannymorgan.com, or by telephone at 818-997-6612. Complete bios and photos are available on request from press contact.

Final note: The "old master" is not something Morgan made up for the purposes of this news release. It's actually a moniker attributed to him by a jazz critic (Hong Kong Press) on the release "It's About Time." The review was titled "Morgan the Masterful," and he wasn't that old at the time, but maybe the reviewer was fooled by his prematurely gray hair.

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