

Jay D'Amico

Pianist Jay D'Amico richly deserves the acclaim he has received on the New York jazz circuit over the past twenty-five years. His debut album, "Envisage" (1983), was recorded by the Jay D'Amico Trio; this group included jazz legends Milt Hinton and Bob Rosengarden on bass and drums. This was certainly an auspicious career start, made even more so by its success on the Billboard jazz charts. A re-release in 2004 found a new audience, hitting the Jazzweek charts.

A second recording was a natural outgrowth of being the pianist in residence at Windows on the World, a position he held from 1984-2001. It is a solo piano recording titled "From the Top."

His critically acclaimed "Ponte Novello" was released in 1999, an exquisite integration of Italian opera and jazz that showcases Jay's creative and sensitive arrangements as well as his special piano styling. Jack Bowers of Cadence writes that Ponte Novello "works like a well-oiled Swiss timepiece, fresh and charming. Pure enchantment." The success of his prior recordings adds to the anticipation of his fourth CD, soon to be released.

A different dynamic is in place when a fine musician performs live. Jay has appeared at The Blue Note, The Village Gate, The Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai Jazz, and Le Cave Jazz in Italy. He's performed with outstanding musicians, including Ben Brown, Ronnie Zito, Don DeMarco, Branford Marsalis, Linda Fennimore, Bucky Pizzarelli, Danny Hayes, Rufus Reid and Louis Hayes. He's appeared with vocalists Johnny Desmond, Fran Warren, Beverly Draper and Olivia Anthony.

Jay, who served as pianist-in-residence at the Plaza Hotel from 2002-2005, is often booked to play solo piano at special events. He frequently performs with his trio, which includes Greg D'Amico on bass and Vinnie Favata on drums. On hundreds of occasions and at a variety of venues since 2001 the Jay D'Amico Trio has performed with talented vocalist Jan Findlay. In 2004 they accompanied Jan in her debut CD, "Old Devil Moon," arranged by Jay.

He's written arrangements and composed original music for Mike Longo's Big Band, Tony Cabot, Bob Rosengarden and Milt Hinton. In fact, he composed and arranged the title tune for Hinton's 1985 LP, "The Judge's Decision." He's been involved in a variety of musical projects, from composing an Earth Day Theme for New York City to creating the musical score for films. He is the consummate musician.

It's suitable to conclude with a few quotes about Jay D'Amico's artistry.

"Jay D'Amico displays an exquisite touch, impeccable timing, and a remarkable sense of harmonic inventiveness." *Mike Longo, Jazz Pianist*

"Jay D'Amico plays piano with a gossamer touch and canny sense of style. There is a certain shapeliness to each solo and a tangible sense of touch, like good sculpture." *Fred Bouchard, Down Beat*