



PHOTOGRAPHY BY WALTER EAGLETON

JOHN ADAMS



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The John Adams Group

This powerful yet elegant ensemble performs a wide spectrum from originals, standards and smooth-jazz, to arrangements of contemporary pop and movie themes. Led by bassist and composer John Adams, The JOHN ADAMS GROUP is comprised of some of the finest, most versatile studio/jazz musicians and vocalists in the Southwest. They regularly appear, in a variety of configurations from duo to six-piece, at festivals, concert series, colleges, churches, and special events of all kinds in the DFW-area and throughout Texas and the southern U. S.

John Adams' Biography - As an accomplished acoustic and electric bassist, John Adams is one of the Southwest's most versatile and in-demand musicians and band-leaders. He currently leads various performing groups. John served as Music Director and performed weekly for three-and-a-half years at Dallas' prestigious Crescent Court Hotel. Adams holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Texas, where for ten years he was the jazz bass professor. He is also active as a producer/arranger, a composer, clinician, and an instructional author.

John has appeared on recent releases from Joe McBride, Bobby Lyle, and Phil Driscoll. He has backed a wide array of artists from vocalists Mel Torme, Rosemary Clooney, Wayne Watson, and Sandi Patti, to jazz artists such as Woody Herman, Randy Brecker, Marvin Stamm, Carl Fontana, Chet Baker, Clark Terry, and Dave Liebman. His broad musical background has also included extensive orchestral, pop, and show work.

Through his Congruent Music label, Adams has released six highly acclaimed CD projects. They have received radio airplay on over 160 stations nationwide and have been prominently featured on various online formats, including Smoothjazz.com. His latest release, "Thumbs Up," (2009) is a full-fledged studio production with a fresh, contemporary sound, strong rhythms, rich harmonies, exciting originals and stunning arrangements of some surprising classics. His "Jump Shot" CD (1996) features New York and regional artists, and showcases his formidable writing skills. "Fly By Night" (1999) features an exceptional acoustic-jazz quartet in an intimate club setting, and the compelling, and sultry, "With You In Mind" CD (2011) features top musicians from Dallas, Austin, and L.A. "The John Adams Group - Live!" (2004) captures the intensity and variety of concert performances. "Trios," (2006) features five different combinations of John's jazz trios covering a broad spectrum of styles and striking rendition of standards.

Members of the John Adams Group appearing in various configurations:

Mario Cruz/Saxophone – Recently relocated to the DFW-area after 25 years in New York City, performing and/or touring with an impressive list of some of music's biggest luminaries. From jazz artists Randy Brecker to Bob James, pop music icons Bruce Springsteen, "Blood, Sweat and Tears," Joe Cocker, Paul Shafer and Natalie Cole, blues legends Lou Rawls and Ray Charles, and latin music's Celia Cruz and Dave Valentin, Mario's musical interests and skills are equaled only by his diversity. As a student of the UNT School of Music he was a member of the acclaimed "One O'Clock Lab Band," whose "Lab '80" recording features several of his compositions and arrangements. Mr. Cruz also had other pieces recorded by various ensembles including the Ft. Worth Symphony. In the early-mid 1980's Mario toured and recorded with legendary bassist Jaco Pastorius and the "Word of Mouth" Orchestra, which featured an "all-star" band that included "Toots" Thielemans, Randy Brecker, Bob Mintzer, Peter Erskine, and others. During his time in New York, Mario also earned an extensive resume of TV, jingle and motion picture studio work as a player and as a composer/arranger.

Mike Drake/Drums - Originally from Durban, S. Africa, drummer Mike Drake has performed and recorded music of virtually every style and genre. Mike's driving and musical approach have placed him in concerts backing an array of artists such as Rosemary Clooney, The Fifth Dimension, The Platters, The Inkspots, The Mamas and the Papas, Jerry Jeff Walker, and Kenny Rankin. Mr. Drake has also performed with numerous touring groups and house-bands, such as at the Fairmont Hotel's Venetian Room, as well as musical productions and on commercial recordings and jingles. He also has extensive experience as an arranger and writer, and is one of the region's premier drumset instructors at colleges and universities such as The University of North Texas, Eastfield College, and Texas Wesleyan University.

James Kings/Vocals - Mr. Kings is an accomplished vocalist and keyboardist, deeply-rooted in classical music, gospel, R & B, and jazz. His seemingly effortless vocals convey a beautiful mix of power and grace. James has accompanied nationally acclaimed gospel artists such as Andre Crouch, BeBe Winans, Thomas Whitfield, Lamar Campbell, Byron Cage, and others. He has also performed and toured with a host of Dallas-area jazz artists including Tom Braxton (whom he worked with alongside bassist John Adams), W.T. Greer, Martha Burks, Keith Anderson, Cindy Horstman, and Joe Vincelli. James Kings made a notable "cameo" appearance on Adams' "With You In Mind" CD, with his soaring vocal on the tune "Nature Boy." Along with freelance vocal and keyboard work, including performing with the John Adams Group, James is currently the music director at Mount Hebron Baptist Church, Garland, TX.

Noel Johnston/Guitar - Producer, composer and educator, Noel has become one of the Dallas-area's most active and widely recorded musicians. He has performed and/or recorded with artists such as Alex Acuna, Joey Baron, Ignacio Berroa, Vinnie Colaiuta, Wayne Delano, Sheila E., Dan Haerle, Fred Hamilton, Pete LaRoca, Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano, Monica Mancini, Adam Nussbaum, The One O'Clock Lab Band, Lynn Seaton, Ed Soph, Paul Tynan, Bill Watrous, Gary Willis, and Kenny Wheeler. Noel is currently on faculty as a Jazz Guitar instructor at the University of North Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Studio/Jazz Guitar from the University of Southern California and a Master of Music in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas. He has previously served on the faculty at Wesley Institute for Ministry & the Arts in Sydney, Australia, and at Grayson County College in Denison, TX. In 2006 he opened the highly successful Lonestar Academy, a multi-faceted music instruction facility in Flower Mound, TX.

Sean McCurley/Drums - As a member of the Kirk Whalum Band since 1994, Sean has played venues and festivals from worldwide, including numerous TV appearances. His talent also has supported the tours of other artists such as Lee Ann Rhimes, George Duke, Joe Sample, Jonathan Butler, Boney James, Philippe Saisse, Jeff Golub, Bobby Lyle, Bernard Wright, Peter White, Rick Braun, Marc Antoine, and others. Sean's skill and versatility also frequently places him on jingle and commercial recording sessions, as well as backing a vast spectrum of local DFW-artists and composers such as Tom Faulkner, Anna Grey, Jim Hodges, Joe McBride, Tom Braxton, and Keith Anderson.

Brian Piper/Keyboards - Brian is one of the most sought-after studio/commercial writers and keyboardists in the southwest. First as a vice-president and writer for Axxess Broadcasting Inc., and now as owner of his own production company (BPM) he has written and recorded literally thousands of pieces of music for everything from jingles to films to albums. Illustrative of Piper's musical diversity is his long-standing position he held as pianist for country star Jerry Jeff Walker. Mr. Piper has played and conducted for a vast array of local and international artists and groups, including Rosemary Clooney, Eartha Kitt, Cab Calloway, Joel Grey, Kris Kristofferson, The Ink Spots, The Dallas Summer Musicals, and the Vocal Majority. Brian brings a wonderful combination of virtuosity, creativity, and musical integrity to every performance.

Partial List Of Concert, Festival &/or Clinic Events

- Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops
(*Elmhurst, IL / Louisville, KY*)
- Arkansas Jazz Society (*Little Rock, AR*)
- Arkansas State University (*Jonesboro, AR*)
- ArtFest! (*Dallas, TX*)
- ARTSNET concert series
(*Tarrant County, TX*) - various sites
- Austin Fall Jazz Festival (*Austin, TX*)
- Brazosport College (*Lake Jackson, TX*)
- Deep Ellum Arts Festival (*Dallas, TX*)
- Denton Arts & Jazz Festival (*Denton, TX*)
- Depot Jazz & Blues Festival (*Brownwood, TX*)
- Dickens on the Square (*McKinney, TX*)
- (The) Elephant Room (*Austin, TX*)
- Ft. Worth Main St. Festival (*Ft. Worth, TX*)
- Gulf Coast Jazz Festival (*Texas City, TX*)
- Hillcrest Church - Performing Arts Series
(*Dallas, TX*)
- Houston School for Performing & Visual
Arts (*Houston, TX*)
- Int'l Association of Jazz Educators
Conventions - various cities in U.S.
- Int'l Society of Bassists Convention
- various cities in U.S.
- Jazz in the Grove Festival (*Bay Springs, MS*)
- Park Cities Baptist Church (*Dallas, TX*)
- Jazz Under the Stars Concert Series/
Dallas Museum of Art (*Dallas, TX*)
- Lee College (*Baytown, TX*)
- MacNeese State University (*Lake Charles, LA*)
- McKinney Arts & Jazz on the Square
(*McKinney, TX*)
- North Texas Jazz Festival (*Addison, TX*)
- Sammons Center for the Arts --Jazz
Series (*Dallas, TX*)
- Schreiner College (*Kerrville, TX*)
- South Plains College (*Levelland, TX*)
- Summer Music Clinic -- University of
Wisconsin (*Madison, WI*)
- Taste of Addison Festival (*Addison, TX*)
- Texas Bass Symposium -- Texas Christian
University (*Ft. Worth, TX*)
- Texas Jazz Festival (*Corpus Christi, TX*)
- Texas Tech University (*Lubbock, TX*)
- University of Alabama (*Tuscaloosa, AL*)
- University of Arkansas (*Little Rock, AR*)
- University of North Texas -- School of
Music & Kenton Hall (*Denton, TX*)
- University of Southern Mississippi
(*Hattiesburg, MS*)
- Wildflower Festival (*Richardson, TX*)
- Wimberly Jazz Festival (*Wimberly, TX*)

Fan Comments

Dear John, Thank you for dropping off your CD and for sharing your wonderful music with me. Best wishes, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Hey John, This "Thumbs Up" is an absolutely AMAZING recording man! Cameron Smith, Executive Producer, MyJazz Network.com

Dear John, Thanks for sending me your new release. It reminds me of the music I listened to that got me excited about starting JAZZIZ in the first place. BTW, can you send a few extra copies my way too? I want to "brag about you" a bit and put it in front of some other people, and don't want to rip/burn CDs (it kills me to do that)... Michael Fagien, Managing Editor. JAZZIZ magazine

Dear John, Thanks for playing with me in Arlington. It was really a pleasure to play with you and you sounded great! Ignacio Berroa, Percussionist/Recording Artist, New York City, NY

Hi John! We are so excited about your awesome project. I'm watching your YouTube Videos right now...Excellent and Fabulous! It's definitely going to go 'UP' from here! Cheers! & Jazziness! Jamie Trent, SmoothJazz.com

Hello John, Just a note to tell you how much we appreciate you coming and sharing your talent and time with us at the conference last Thursday! I was uplifted and sensed the Lord's presence through you. From the comments I heard from participants everyone really enjoyed having you there! I hope that our paths will cross again in the near future. In Partnership, Rendell Day, Chaplain, Habitat for Humanity International

John, I wanted to thank you for the great concert last night! I was grinning ear to ear all the way through it. Every position - guitar, sax, keys, percussion, BASS, was just sublime. I would love for more people to hear you at another event here in the future. Also the words you shared were just right. Yours, Dennis Adams, Technical Director, PCPC, Dallas, TX

John, Your bass solo on "Fortress" - stunningly Adamesque! On "Sound" - very lyrical and the bass sings! LOVE the VIBE on "People Make ..." - very cool! I'm very happy to see you still creating hip music and growing as the artist you are. In Harmony, Michael Moryc, Matrix Promotions

John, Thank you for sharing you gift with us Sunday night. You all were incredible. My wife and I have admired your work for years. We look forward to hearing you again. Andy Wilson, Pastor, Grace Bible Church, Dallas, TX

Hi John, Thanks again for bringing both of your groups to the Cottonwood festival again this past weekend. It is always an honor have your fabulous sounds come through my system! Hope to see you again, soon. Best regards, Fred Allen, North Texas Production Group

Hi John, Thank you for such a wonderful evening. I have had a lot of emails this morning from guests saying how much they enjoyed your group's performance last night. Dana, Dallas, TX

John, We are impressed with the sound and the professionalism of the whole package, including the beautiful artwork. Your credit list was touching, and the written statement is very well done. Elaine & Jack, Madison, WI

Hi John, Again, it was a pleasure to attend the concert and be 'nourished' by your music, and to witness your joy... and another grand evening of jazz tonight -- thank you! Best wishes, Rosanne, Dallas, TX



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