

GOING FOR ADDS: APRIL 27th, 2023

FILE: JAZZ

ARTIST: MICHAEL WETHERWAX

**and The KUPKASONIC
JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

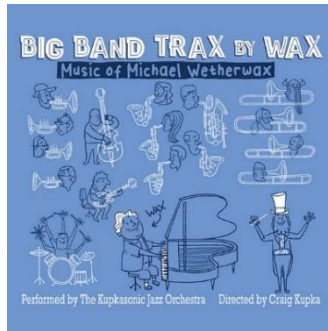
TITLE: Big Band Trax by Wax

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TRACK PICKS: 1,5,8 Latin 4,6



TRACKS + CREDITS + SOLOISTS

1 Gina's Groove 4:13 – (John Clayton)

Soloists: Colin Kupka (alto sax); Chris Price (trumpet);
Michael Wetherwax (piano); Eric Jorgensen (trombone).

This was recorded by a couple friends of mine, John and Jeff Clayton (The Clayton Brothers). We played together in several bands in college. John wrote this for his daughter, Gina, and man it swings! Great solos by Colin, Chris, and Eric ("the Viking") Jorgensen on trombone.

2 Blue Rondo a la Turk 5:44 – (Dave Brubeck)

Soloists: Colin Kupka (alto sax); Bill Bodine (trumpet); Rene Lopez (guitar); Michael Wetherwax (piano).

Love this odd metered challenge that swings in the middle! Several artists have done this also with their own twist.

3 A Kupkasonic Reset 5:06 – (Michael Wetherwax)

A musical Renaissance.

Soloists: Colin Kupka (tenor); Craig Kupka (trombone); Chris Price (trumpet); Leanne Powers (baritone Sax).

I wrote this when years ago, the band decided to leave an open college program and go private. Big decision, but now it's open to all sorts of pro's in LA.

4 Tin Tin Deo 6:08 – (Dizzy Gillespie/ Gil Fuller/ Chano Pozo)

Made famous by Dizzy Gillespie

Soloists: Michael Wetherwax (piano); Colin Kupka (tenor sax); Bill Bodine (trumpet); Rene Lopez (guitar); Eric Jorgensen (trombone).

I always loved this Dizzy Gillespie Latin funk. Many different versions out there, slow and up, but this is my favorite. Lol.

5 Lynn's Lullaby 5:46 – (Michael Wetherwax)

Soloist: Colin Kupka (soprano sax).

My wife, Lynn, has worked hard for decades as a nurse for LA County. If she went to sit and relax, it was all over.

6 Rio Samba 4:57 – (Larry Carlton)

Soloists: Rene Lopez (guitar); Marvin Bonds (tenor sax); Eric Jorgensen (trombone); Jim Davy (drums); Latif (bass).

I love the three part, Frank Zappa style harmonies on the second time around. Beware of the Viking's solo!

7 Waltz for DeBilly 5:30 – (Bill Evans / English Folk Song)

A medley of Waltz for Debbie and Billy Boy.

Soloists: Michael Wetherwax(piano); Colin Kupka (alto); Craig Kupka and Gordon Theil (trombones); Jay Stolmack (tenor sax); Chris Price (trumpet).

I always loved playing this Bill Evan's classic with my trio. When I went to arrange it for the big band, I can't remember why I heard it combined with the old public domain child's song, Billy Boy. "Have you heard, a more swingin' tune, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?"

8 Cool Walk 5:38 – (Oscar Peterson)

Soloists: Michael Wetherwax (piano); Colin Kupka (soprano sax); Craig Kupka (trombone); Ed Mann (trumpet); Latif (bass); Willis Masonheimer (tuba).

This bluesy Oscar Peterson tune was originally slower, but I heard it with a medium tempo New Orleans style. Some good solo's in that one. Feel the 2 beat bass drum.

9 On A Clear Day 3:49 – (Lane / Lerner)...a la Oscar.

Soloists: Michael Wetherwax (piano); Colin Kupka (alto); Craig Kupka (trombone); Paul Litteral (trumpet).

A classic that has inspired me again by Oscar Peterson, with a classic style arrangement including brass shakes!

MUSICIANS

Saxes: Colin Kupka, Jay Stolmack, Marvin Bonds, Amanda Campos, Leanne Powers

T-bones: Eric Jorgensen, Gordon Theil, Richard Beyer, Willis Masonheimer, Craig Kupka

Trumpets: Paul Litteral, Bill Bodine, Ed Mann, Larry Lippold

Rhythm: Rene Lopez – Guitar, Jim Davy – Drums, Latif – Bass, Michael Wetherwax – Piano

Guests: Chris Price – Trumpet, Tony Pia – Percussion

MUSIC ARRANGED and PRODUCED

Michael Wetherwax

Tracks 3 & 5 Composed by Michael Wetherwax

Executive Producer Craig Krupa

Artwork by Ernie Gilbert

Re-Mastered by Tom Nunes at Atomic Disc

PRODUCTION

Waxtrax Studios & Kupka Studios in Los Angeles CA 12/2021 – 7/2022

BIO

Michael Wetherwax grew up in Burbank, California. In his younger years he performed with his family band "The Reflectors" under the direction of his father, who was an accomplished musician, teaching in several different schools in Burbank. In Michael's teen years, he wrote for a Henry Mancini TV Special and the Tonight Show Band, while studying with Hugo Montenegro, Earle Hagan, Quincy Jones, and Fredrick Fennel. He was awarded High School Jazz Composer of the Year 2 years in a row and wrote and conducted at the Monterey Jazz Festival while performing on lead trumpet in the California All Star Band. There he was asked to join the Stan Kenton Neophonic Orchestra where he performed with legendary musicians, Joe Pass and Louie Bellson.

During his college years, he continued to compose and perform for different bands featuring his colleagues such as John and Jeff Clayton. Additionally, he played in Los Angeles with "Rural Still Life", which soon became the band Toto. At 19, after recording a demo album with them, he travelled to Japan to work as a writer and accompanist for NHK. He loved performing his accompanying skills that he mentored from the great Jimmy Rowles, who recorded with Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae.

When he returned from Japan, he played keyboards for Universal, Disney, and MGM for several shows such as Night Rider, Airwolf, and Fame. Subsequently he arranged, recorded, and performed music for the MGM Grand theme park in Vegas, and the I Love Lucy, Blues Brothers, and Marilyn Monroe Shows at Universal Studios Hollywood, and started composing and arranging for movies from Rodger Corman to Oliver Stone to the Hallmark Channel, and TV shows such as Lassie and Twilight Zone. This Big Band album, the first of different genres in a "Trax by WAX" series, documents his love for exciting and contemporary Big Band music that friends convinced him to record.

www.traxbywax.com



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