

GOING FOR ADDS: AUGUST 1st, 2025

FILE: JAZZ BIG BAND

ARTIST: STEVE ALLEE BIG BAND

TITLE: FULL CIRCLE

LABEL: Jazzville Records #2404

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BARCODE: 1 95269 36650 6

WEBSITE: www.steveallee.com

VIDEO: <https://www.indyjazzfoundation.org/naptown-sound>



Naptown Sound is a significant artistic work, full of lush harmonics, fiery solos and striking compositions that explore the full sonority of the big band sound. Steve Allee and his big band have created a passionate and heartfelt tribute to Indianapolis' jazz legacy - Kyle Long, producer/host at WFYI

TRACKS

1. Circle City (7:34) S. Allee
Soloist: Chip McNeill tenor sax – Sandy Williams - guitar
2. The Avenue (9:00) S. Allee
Soloists: Rusty Burge – vibes, Matt Pivec- alto sax, Ansyn Banks – trumpet, Steve Houghton – drums
3. Brothers (5:05) S. Allee
Soloist: Jim Pugh - trombone
- *Naptown Suite:
4. *Zeebs. (7:30) S. Allee
Soloist – John Raymond – trumpet
5. *Full Circle (10:14) S. Allee
Soloists: Jeremy Allen – bass, Steve Allee – piano, Ansyn Banks – trumpet, Chip McNeill – tenor sax
6. *Ransom Place (5:28) S. Allee
Soloist: Ansyn Banks - trumpet
7. Space - 2:10 S. Allee

Step into a world of extraordinary talent and unrivaled creativity with Steve Allee's latest endeavor, the 'Naptown Sound' project. Celebrating the rich musical heritage of Indianapolis and paying tribute to legendary musicians such as Wes Montgomery, Freddie Hubbard, J.J. Johnson, Slide Hampton, Claude Sifferlen, John Von

Ohlen, and more. this project captures the essence of Indy's unique 'Naptown Sound' musical style that has captivated audiences worldwide.

From the vibrant clubs on Indiana Avenue and throughout Indianapolis, the legacy of Indianapolis greats lives on through this project. Steve Allee, an Indianapolis native, has been meticulously crafting new compositions for his big band, drawing inspiration from the hometown heroes who shaped the city's musical landscape.

BAND

Steve Allee – Piano - Fender Rhodes - composer

John Clayton - Conductor

SAXOPHONES & WOODWINDS

Michael Stricklin - flute, soprano & alto saxophone

Matt Pivec - clarinet, alto saxophone

Chip McNeill - clarinet & tenor saxophone

Rob Dixon - soprano & tenor saxophone

Ned Boyd - bass clarinet & baritone saxophone

TRUMPETS / FLUGELHORNS

Joey Tartell - lead trumpet

Derrick Gardner

Ansyn Banks

John Raymond

Jeff Conrad - Friends – Spang a Lang

TROMBONES

Jim Pugh - lead trombone

Zach Granger

Rich Dole

BASS, VIBES, PERCUSSION, DRUMS, GUITAR, VOCALS

Jared Rodin – (bass)

Jeremy Allen - bass

Russell Burge – vibes & percussion

Brian Kilgore – percussion

Steve Houghton – drums

Sandy Williams – guitar

Erin Benedict – vocals -Twins

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Rob Dixon, David Allee, Don & Susan Foley, Stan & Alice Hillis, Sue & Dion Wickcliff, Greg Reynolds, Chris Scanlon, Warren & Janet Ward, Indianapolis Jazz Foundation

RECORDED

May 6, 7, 8 2024 Primary Sound Studios, Bloomington IN

Engineered Mixed and Mastered by Jake Belser

Photography Mark Sheldon

Layout/Design P.J. Yinger

Indianapolis, or Naptown as we locals affectionately call it, has is an undeniably rich jazz culture that has shaped the development of this music in profound ways. It's a culture that continues to expand and evolve, as you'll hear on this brilliant album from the Steve Allee Big Band, an album that celebrates the musicians, teachers, mentors, history, and places that make Naptown a sparkling jewel in the geography of jazz music

The legacy of Indianapolis jazz has had a remarkable reach. During World War I, the Indianapolis vocalist and bandleader Noble Sissle introduced jazz to the European continent with the 369th Infantry Regiment's "Hell Fighters" band. A few years later, Sissle, and his partner Eubie Blake, brought jazz to Broadway with their historic musical production Shuffle Along. During the mid-20th Century, Indianapolis produced a trio of music icons whose artistry defined the role of their instruments in jazz: trombonist J.J. Johnson, trumpeter Freddie Hubbard, and guitarist Wes Montgomery. In the 1950s, Naptown bassist Leroy Vinnegar, and pianist Carl Perkins contributed to the early sound of West Coast jazz. In the 1960s, saxophonist/flutist James Spaulding, trumpeter Virgil Jones and bassist Larry Ridley became key sidemen on classic sessions for revered East Coast jazz labels including Blue Note, Impulse and Prestige.

The aforementioned names represent a small sample of the Indianapolis jazz performers who've gained national notoriety. There's Melvin Rhyne, David Baker, Slide Hampton, Monk Montgomery, Les "Bear" Taylor, Jimmy Coe, David Young, Pharez Whitted, Floyd Smith, Pookie Johnson, Russell Webster, Larry Liggett, Sarah McLawler, Buddy Montgomery, Phil Ranelin, Bill Jennings, Ray Appleton, Jozell Carter, John Von Ohlen, Paul Weeden, Rob Dixon, Debbie Andrews, Billy Wooten, The Hampton Sisters and so many more.

BIOGRAPHY

Steve Allee – jazz pianist, arranger, composer, educator

Pianist, composer and arranger Steve Allee is a veteran of more than 35 years on the music scene, working principally in jazz, writing and performing for syndicated radio programs, network television and motion pictures, and as a music educator.

All of his career facets have blended into a distinct musical style that has a very strong visual, almost cinematic flavor because of his skill in capturing or reinforcing important moods or visual elements that inspire his projects.

Steve has released six CDs as a leader, the two most recent being his trio recordings, *Dragonfly* (June 2008) and *Colors* (April 2007) are artful collaborations with bassist Bill Moring and drummer Tim Horner. Saxophonists Rich Perry and Rob Dixon appear on select tracks. In his liner notes for *Dragonfly*, jazz journalist Ken Franckling noted that "From start to finish, *Dragonfly* makes it clear that this is a band in which each of the players finds their interaction to be exhilarating.... this trio is all about making the most of the journey – as the best jazz should."

A native son and longtime resident of Indianapolis, Indiana, Steve was fortunate to grow up in the hometown of many jazz greats, including brothers Wes, Buddy and Monk Montgomery, Slide Hampton, J.J. Johnson, David Baker, Freddie Hubbard and Melvin Rhyne, among others.

His playing style has a touch, sparkling clarity and improvisational variations reminiscent of the late Bill Evans, as well as a very strong blues influence that Steve credits to his exposure to Buddy Montgomery and Horace Silver.

Steve began his professional career at age 19 with the Buddy Rich Orchestra before he was drafted into military service during the

Vietnam War. Through the years, he has worked with a veritable "Who's Who" of major jazz artists across the United States and abroad. Recent performances include the Rufus Reid Trio, The Randy Brecker Quartet, David "Fathead" Newman, John Clayton and The Rich Perry Quartet. He also leads a big band that performs regularly in Indianapolis.

Steve's big band CD, *Downtown Blues*, with bassist John Clayton and drummer John VonOhlen, was nominated for a Grammy® award. Allee's first national solo CD, *The Magic Hour*, released on Noteworthy Records, landed at No. 14 on the Gavin national radio poll.

His other musical accomplishments included being commissioned to write and conduct a four-movement work for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Indianapolis Museum of Art. His score for the film, *"New York in the Fifties,"* was performed live at Switzerland's acclaimed Montreux Jazz Festival. Steve was co-director and arranger for a J.J. Johnson Tribute Concert featuring trombonist Slide Hampton at the Indy Jazz Fest in 2001.

His writing credits include soundtracks for *"New York In The Fifties,"* the film inspired by the Dan Wakefield book of the same title, as well as *"Something To Cheer About,"* a documentary starring Halle Berry and Oscar Robertson that focused on the 1954-55 Crispus Attucks Tigers basketball team on which NBA legend Robertson played in high school in Indianapolis. It was the first all-black high school team ever to win a state championship – and the team that changed the face of basketball forever.

Steve's performance and network television writing credits with Los Angeles Post Music® include music for "Chicago Hope," "Mad About You," "Martha Stewart," "Friends," "Nash Bridges," "NYPD Blue," "Dharma and Greg," and "Touched by an Angel."

This busy artist also is the music director for the nationally syndicated, Indianapolis-based comedy-variety radio show, "The Bob and Tom Show," with which he has co-produced more than 50 albums over the past 25 years.



Naptown Sound Full Circle is a part of the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation's "From the 317" project. A collection of Indianapolis-based artists, creating original works focused on national and international exposure.



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