

I Concentrate on You

Skip Wilkins has been recording and releasing new music quite prolifically during the last few years, averaging one release per year since 2006, with critical praise from each!

In 2011, Skip releases two new recordings with the Skip Wilkins Trio. Recorded in two days in January 2010, Skip went into Systems Two in Brooklyn with his new trio, Scott Lee on bass and Jeff Hirshfield on drums, with the goal of recording an ambitious set of new compositions that the trio had been developing during the previous four months. The day before the sessions began, Skip had a premonition that the record was going to go down quickly. He was right. Good thing he grabbed a few favorite standards minutes before he left for New York, because on day two after finishing the final new piece, the trio made an impromptu recording of the set of standards. Two days. Two records. Wow!

And what a great opportunity for listeners to hear this trio playing new music that they had been carefully considering for months, alongside an impromptu session selected from the canon – The Great American Songbook!



In spring 2011, the Skip Wilkins Trio releases I Concentrate on You (Dreambox Media, DMJ-1133), the charming set of standards from the second day of the sessions. This recording features a small handful of favorite standards that are not played every day, including the title track, and tunes like "Wonder Why," "A Garden in the Rain," and "Who Cares." These are mixed in with more well known pieces, such as "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Alone Together." What the trio delivers is magical, as they are completely in sync after months of preparing Skip's new material for the previous day's recordings!

The companion release, After (Dreambox Media, DMJ-1135), will be released in August 2011.

This new ensemble has a history that extends back to the late 90's. Arriving back on the East Coast, Skip met Scott Lee and Jeff Hirshfield on different gigs. They performed together and in combinations with other musicians, but did not begin to work on new music for a trio concept in earnest until 2009. Skip was occupied with

many other albums (including four previous Dreambox Media releases). After recording and releasing seven previous albums, at last, Skip has the first trio albums of his long career!

Look for another new recording in early 2012. This trio becomes a quartet with the addition of phenomenal young tenor saxophonist Daniel Wilkins. (You might recognize the last name!) Skip wrote new music to feature his son, along with the trio and the Skip Wilkins Quartet will release *Father & Son* soon enough. The younger Wilkins has an old soul and interprets his father's music with intimate command of the language. After all, Daniel grew up with it!

Swings vigorously. -- Philadelphia Inquirer

Wilkins is searching for, and more often than not finding, his own voice, which is really what jazz is all about. -- Allentown Morning Call

Wilkins is first-rate... Wilkins possesses a deft technique though he is not a particularly showy pianist - as with most good musicians, technique is at the service of the music and not the other way around. -- Cadence Magazine

I Concentrate on You

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| 1. I Concentrate on You | 5:15 |
| 2. Wonder Why | 4:25 |
| 3. A Garden in the Rain | 5:09 |
| 4. Bye Bye Blackbird | 4:29 |
| 5. A Portrait of Jenny (Take One) | 4:58 |
| 6. Alone Together | 5:53 |
| 7. Who Cares? | 5:27 |
| 8. Luiza | 3:49 |
| 9. Softly, As in a Morning Sunrise | 3:42 |
| 10. A Portrait of Jenny (Take Two) | 4:33 |

I Concentrate on You
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www.dreamboxmedia.com
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Systems Two, Brooklyn, NY
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Max Ross, asst engineer
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Skip Wilkins, piano
Scott Lee, bass
Jeff Hirshfield, drums

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