



# SKIP WILKINS QUINTET



## VOLUME I

More than ten years ago, pianist and composer Skip Wilkins returned to the east coast in search of new music and new opportunities. He had already played with countless jazz luminaries in his native Boston and during eight years living in the West, among them, saxophonists Plas Johnson and John LaPorta, vocalists Mark Murphy and Darmon Meader, trumpeter Conte Candoli, bassist Milt Hinton, and drummers Bob Moses, Joe Hunt, and Peter Erskine. More would follow after his return to the east coast, including saxophonists David Liebman, Bobby Watson and Stanley Turrentine, trumpeter Clark Terry and drummer T.S. Monk.

Among the first musicians with whom Wilkins played after moving to Pennsylvania were Tony Marino and Gary Rissmiller, his rhythm section counterparts here on **Skip Wilkins Quintet: Volume I**. Skip shared some of his earlier compositions with Marino and Rissmiller, and together with flutist Jill Allen, they performed locally and on tour. Wilkins and Allen subsequently released *Petty Theft* in 2001, plus an earlier recording, *Two Much Fun!* Many of the pieces for which Wilkins was recognized in his 2001 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts jazz composition fellowship appeared on the recordings that he co-led with Allen. With growing access to great regional musicians, Skip had a lot of motivation to write and eventually record new music.

Skip wrote a number of pieces for a group featuring guitarist Tom Kozic. All veteran jazz musicians by the time Skip met them, Kozic, Marino and Rissmiller had been playing together since they were teenagers. Their hook-up was long and deep. Skip tapped into the relationship of these Pennsylvania natives with new compositions. The quartet, then comprised of Wilkins, Kozic, Marino and Rissmiller, played some memorable gigs together five years ago. Meanwhile, Skip searched for the right opportunity to record the group.

Skip first played with New York saxophonist Paul Kendall when Paul joined the Tony Gairo-Gary Rissmiller Jazz Orchestra to hold the baritone sax chair. Performing weekly, and eventually appearing together on the Orchestra's Seabreeze Jazz release *Treacherous*, their musical friendship flourished. Soon after, Skip heard Paul

on tenor saxophone and knew that he had the last piece of the puzzle in place for a planned new recording of his music. Like Skip, Paul was a transplant to Pennsylvania. A pair of interlopers was about to rumble with the locals.

During the first five months of 2005, the Skip Wilkins Quintet took the bandstand many times and let the music take shape, rehearsing and performing a total of eighteen pieces. Over those months, every piece changed. In May, they recorded all eighteen pieces in two consecutive days in a live remote recording from the main stage of the Williams Center of the Arts at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where Wilkins is a member of the music faculty. After listening for a month, the Quintet returned in June for a final day of recording. Amazingly, most of the tracks they selected were first takes. In fact, for many pieces there was only one take. Nine pieces are included on the Dreambox Media release, **Skip Wilkins Quintet: Volume I**, with the remaining nine coming out on **Volume II**.

Living in Eastern Pennsylvania, halfway between two superlative jazz communities - those in Philadelphia and in the Poconos, and within easy reach of another one in New York City - Wilkins is regularly fortunate enough to share the bandstand with some amazing players. Paul Kendall, Tom Kozic, Tony Marino and Gary Rissmiller are surely at the top of the list. The Quintet's new association with Philadelphia jazz record label Dreambox Media is timely. It's a natural fit for five Pennsylvanians to release their music through a great Philadelphia institution.

### SKIP WILKINS QUINTET: VOLUME I

Dreambox Media (DMJ-1101)

Distributed by: North Country  
Cadence Building, Redwood, NY 13679

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Visit Dreambox Media on the web at:  
<http://dreamboxmedia.com>



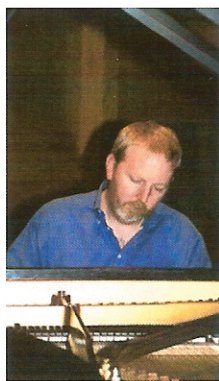


**DREAMBOX MEDIA** presents

# SKIP WILKINS QUINTET VOLUME I

Pianist/composer Skip Wilkins and his superb quintet captured this set of original compositions in a live remote recording from the main stage of the Williams Center for the Arts at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Skip is joined by Paul Kendall (tenor saxophone), Tom Kozic (guitars), Tony Marino (bass) and Gary Rissmiller (drums) in this **Volume I** of **SKIP WILKINS QUINTET**, on the Dreambox Media label of Philadelphia.

(Look for **Volume II** in April, 2007.)



**Title:** Skip Wilkins Quintet: Volume I

**Artist:** Skip Wilkins

**Label:** DREAMBOX MEDIA  
Box 8132  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

**Catalog #** DMJ-1101

**UPC #** 7 39673 11012 8

**Release Date:** 9-1-2006

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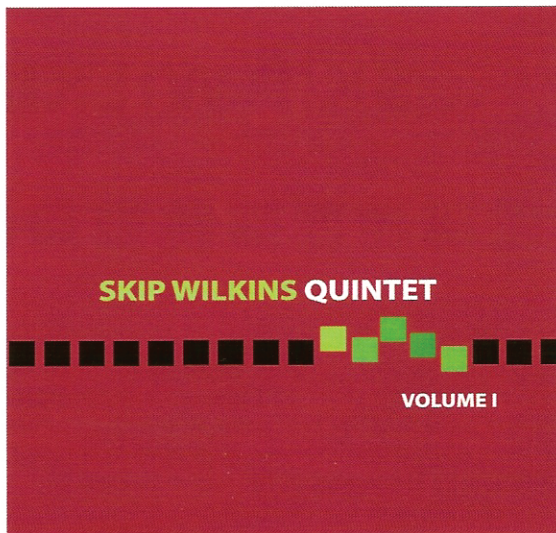
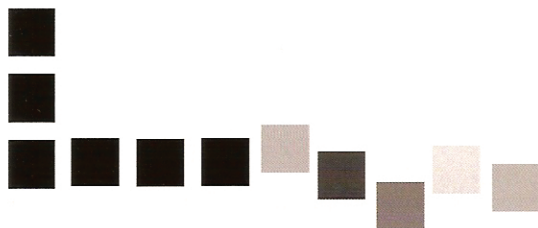
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### Track Listing:

1. **It Was Bound to Happen** (6:38)
2. **Stephanie's Song** (10:51)
3. **No Parking** (7:25)
4. **Would Aldous Huxley...?** (10:47)
5. **The Hand-Off** (7:57)
6. **Unforgotten** (5:28)
7. **One Last Look** (6:44)
8. **Longing** (7:17)
9. **Take the Fourth** (6:31)

All compositions and arrangements by **Skip Wilkins**  
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### Personnel:

**Skip Wilkins** *piano*  
**Paul Kendall** *tenor saxophone*  
**Tom Kozic** *guitars*  
**Tony Marino** *bass*  
**Gary Rissmiller** *drums*



Produced by **Skip Wilkins**

A live remote recording from the main stage of the Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

Recorded by **Jim McGee** and **Kent Bubbenmoyer**  
Mixed and edited by **Jim McGee** and **Skip Wilkins**  
Mastered by **John Vanore**