

For Immediate Release

DARCY HEPNER JAZZ ORCHESTRA TO RELEASE DEBUT CD
'BLUES IN ANOTHER MINUTE'

It seems hard to believe that a sophisticated and metropolitan **sixteen piece jazz orchestra** would establish itself in what was once Hamilton's most notorious punk bar, only to become so instantly popular that it has maintained a Wednesday night residency now into its third year, routinely selling out the club, attracting audiences from all over Ontario, and top players from both Canadian and International jazz circles. And it may just be true that '**Blues in Another Minute**', the inaugural recording of the **Darcy Hepner Jazz Orchestra** is so crisp and swinging that it proves the impossible...

Hamilton has turned into a jazz town.

The story in a nutshell is this: Darcy Hepner left his hometown in Hamilton decades ago to become a fixture in the **New York jazz scene**, playing his saxophone behind the likes of **Tony Bennett** and **Mel Torme**, and as a permanent member of **Blood Sweat and Tears**. His wife **Astrid Hepner**, also an established saxophone player, was equally accomplished as a Marketing Executive for **Blue Note Records in New York City**. When these two relocated back to Hamilton in 2005, they were determined to use their experience and connections to promote jazz, and contribute to the city's already strong music community.

The **Darcy Hepner Jazz Orchestra** is one of their most notable successes. An assembly of a veritable who's who among Canadian jazz musicians, the DHJO has focused almost exclusively on the compositions and arrangements of the legendary **Thad Jones**, the jazz icon who rose to fame through his arrangements for **Count Basie** and **Sarah Vaughan**. As the founder of The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra his legacy continues today through New York's famed **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra**.

The nine tracks on '**Blues in Another Minute**' are all Thad Jones arrangements, and while at times complex musically, the listener will find them undoubtedly accessible. A track like '**Back Bone**' features rocket fast melody lines and syncopated pulses, and yet despite how complicated the composition gets, the music never feels self-important. It swings with too much optimism to ever become pretentious.

'**Blues in Another Minute**' was recorded live in a "*single, joyous but focused eight-hour recording session*" and is intended to be a snapshot of the performing prowess of the band, a way to capture some of the energy of their successful residency at the Corktown. But this is not to say that there's anything quick or amateurish about the recording. Indeed '**Blues in Another Minute**' features a staggering amount of production talent. The recording session was conducted by **Nick Marchione**, currently the lead trumpet player for the **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra**. Nick has been an ongoing guest and collaborator with the DHJO. The project was mixed by **Grammy winning engineer Jim Anderson at Glenn Gould Studio**, mastered by **Grammy winning engineer Alan Silverman**, and even features art direction by **Grammy nominated Carla Leighton** (who has done package design for Norah

Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Joe Lovano, to name a few), and a band photo by famed **New York jazz photographer Jimmy Katz**. In other words, **'Blues in Another Minute'** is a pedigreed production, with a sound and look that can stand beside any premiere jazz recording of its kind.

And just to make no mistake about this being a Hamilton project, the DHJO brought in **Juno winning rock and roots artist Tom Wilson** (one of two guest vocalists, along with Toronto chanteuse **Sophia Perlman**) to lend his vocals to the track 'Smack Dab in the Middle'. It's hard to imagine Tom Wilson singing a jazz standard, and yet his growling baritone seems to dive effortlessly into the task, as if he's been waiting all his life to channel his inner Sinatra.

Says Darcy Hepner: "We wanted to work with friends; we wanted this recording to really capture what's special about this band. And we wanted to prove that this city really has everything you need to make something as unwieldy as big band jazz take hold."

Although the CD was released nationally August 28th, the momentum for Blues in Another Minute will really begin this September 29, when the DHJO kicks off its Wednesday night residency at the Corktown Tavern with a massive CD release party. The Fall season runs every Wednesday until Dec. 1, and if last year was any indication, it will sell out fast.

'Blues In Another Minute' is available online at www.darcyhepner.com as well as www.Amazon.com and www.CDbaby.com.

Contact: Astrid Hepner

Email: ahepner@Mountaintable.net

Phone: (905) 387 9833

www.darcyhepner.com

www.hamiltonmusiccollective.org