



proudly presents

# IMPRO-VŌZ

and

Vocal Jazz Ensemble II

with guests artists

## This Side Up

and selected soloists

Tuesday  
November 15, 1994  
8:00 pm  
Gerald R. Daniel Recital Hall

## IMPRO-VOZ

directed by Michele Weir

### Vocalists:

Wendy Young  
Marjorie Oblites  
Kim Switzer  
Darlene Martin  
Paige Moore

Ken Burdick  
Chris Miller  
Graeme Langager  
Tim Smith

### Rhythm Section:

Nathan Murphy - piano  
Eric Stiller - bass  
Mike Miley - drums

## PROGRAM

selected from

*ABC* - arr. M. Weir  
*Alone Together* - arr. P. Mattson  
*Astrud* - arr. M. Weir  
*Confirmation* - arr. P. Read  
*He's Asleep* - arr. M. Weir  
*Lazy Afternoon* - arr. G. Puerling  
*Mickey's Diner* - arr. M. Weir  
*Whisper Not* - arr. M. Weir  
*Who Will Buy* - arr. G. Carlos  
*Yatra Ta* - arr. R. Treece  
*White Christmas* - arr. R. Bell  
*Boogie Woogie Santa Claus* - arr. M. Ames  
*Sweet Little Baby* - by M. Ames

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## IMPRO-VOZ

**IMPRO-VOZ** recorded a CD in the spring of '92 that also featured the CSULB Jazz Band I. All of the vocal jazz arrangements on the CD were written by either students or faculty of CSULB. **IMPRO-VOZ** was invited to perform for the International Association of Jazz Educators Convention in Washington, DC in 1991, and performed with the Long Beach Ballet in the spring of 1991. It was the international premier of a new ballet called, "The Unicorn" by a New York composer.

## Michele Weir

Michele is currently a faculty member at the University of Southern California and California State University Long Beach. She was previously on the faculty of the Phil Mattson School and Spokane Falls Community College where she taught vocal jazz classes and jazz piano, harmony, improvisation and arranging. As a member of the vocal jazz group, "Phil Mattson and the P.M. Singers," Michele appeared as singer and arranger for their two albums including Grammy nominated, "Night in the City."

As a pianist, Michele has toured as the accompanist for singer Bobby Vinton as well as doing free-lance work around the Los Angeles area. Michele's arrangements are published with Hal Leonard, Jensen Publications and the U.N.C. Jazz Press, and her commissioned works are performed by professional and educational groups internationally including "Chanticleer" and "Beachfront Property."

Michele is currently in demand as a clinician and adjudicator and serves as co-chair of Vocal Jazz for the International Association of Jazz Educators. Michele is also about to release a new CD as a soloist with Phil Mattson on piano.

## Heather McMasters

Heather McMasters is a recent graduate of Long Beach State with a degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Music. Now a graduate student, Heather has been the director of Vocal Jazz II for the past three years and is a former member of Long Beach State's

noted vocal jazz ensemble **IMPRO-VOZ**. She is a regular featured vocalist with Studio Jazz Ensemble I and performs professionally for studio recordings, variety shows, ensembles, and solo work at Knott's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain, and Disneyland. She is currently appearing as Belle in the *Beauty and the Beast* live stage show at Disneyland as well as being a member of the fine commercial music group *Mere Image*. Heather teaches private voice and has been an adjudicator at the well-known Fullerton College Jazz Festival.

## THIS SIDE UP

A closely knit group of professional singers, composers, and arrangers, **This Side Up** adds an exciting and unique style to a cappella music. Often referred to as an "a cappella band," **This Side Up** is known for creating a realistic instrumental sound incorporating vocal percussion, sung electric bass and other effects. TSU performs compelling originals, as well as true-to-sound arrangements of selections ranging from Sting to Pat Benetar.

**This Side Up** has opened for such names as the Zazu Pitts Memorial Orchestra and has performed throughout California to standing room only audiences. TSU received the Best Original Arrangement Award at the 1992 Harmony Sweepstakes in San Francisco. The group also participated in last year's Spring Sing West in the Bay area, where the Contemporary A Cappella Newsletter gave them rave reviews. All the members of the group have international performance experience, including appearances in England, Spain, and Korea.

Chris Miller toured several colleges before landing a gig at CSULB, where he is currently working toward a degree in vocal jazz. Michael Blanchard is a voice major at USC who may have the lowest speaking voice but is still bitter about no longer being the tallest member of the group. Becky Kneubuhl is a USC composition major who recently celebrated her 21st birthday (she welcomes belated gifts). Ben Karney, a native of Los Angeles, is earning his Ph.D. in Social Psychology at UCLA and is a veritable encyclopedia of restaurant suggestions. Mark Waters, a musical theater lover and Alfred Hitchcock movie buff, relocated from Sacramento to join TSU. Chicagoan Jeannie Lurie is the newest addition to **This Side Up** and is happy to be escaping the arctic chill of winters past.

# LONG BEACH STATE

## *Commercial Music/Jazz Studies*

The Long Beach State Commercial Music/Jazz Studies program has a history of excellence since its inception in 1974 as the first state-supported university program of its kind on the west coast. The program has received local, national, and international recognition of excellence through numerous appearances at jazz festivals, educational conventions and command performances, and its ensembles and soloists have consistently earned the highest honors and awards at music festivals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Some of the more notable performances by Long Beach State Studio Ensembles have included the Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), the North Sea Jazz Festival (Holland), the Playboy Jazz Festival, the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) Convention, the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) Convention, the Music Educators National Conference (MENC), the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Convention, the Long Beach Grand Prix, the Long Beach Jazz Festival (including 1994), the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Long Beach Terrace Theater, the Long Beach Amphitheater, and Disneyland.

The Long Beach State Studio Ensembles have performed with such jazz stars as Bobby McFerrin, Rich Matteson, Bobby Bryant, Clare Fischer, Roy Burns, Gary Foster, Eddie Daniels, Bobby Shew, Pete Christlieb, Flora Purim, Vic Lewis, George Duke, Manny Album, Tom Harrell, Airtio, Ross Tompkins, Tommy Newsome, Doug McDonald, Joanie Summers, Ernie Andrews, Jack Sheldon, Les McCann, Guitar Shorty, Tommy Ferguson, Ashley Alexander, Sunny Wilkinson, Bruce Brown, The CSU Jazz Professors' Bone Band, Don Shelton, Phil Matson, Gerald Wilson, Billy Taylor, Pete Rugolo, Bud Shank and Bill Watrous.

A recent performance by a string-enhanced Studio Ensemble I and Long Beach State's Vocal Jazz Ensemble Improvowz (led by Michelle Weir) with Pete Rugolo for the The Stan Kenton Fiftieth-Year Celebration was produced by radio station KLon and was included on a commercially-released four-CD set.

Over the past twenty years, the Long Beach State Commercial Music Program has prepared many students for entrance into the music industry. These individuals include music industry notables Jim Cox, John Patitucci, Chad Wackerman, Bob Wackerman, Jay Anderson, Mike Higgins, Dan Higgins, Dan Barrett, Sally Spencer, Dan Tullis, David Witham, Tim Pope, Tom Bevan, Rhonda Rivera, David Metzger, Bobby Bryant Jr., Darron Johnson, Bobby Rodriguez, Luther Hughes, Gordon Peake, Bill Steck, Mark Massey, Jeff Kashiwa, Cecilia Coleman, John Ferraro, Tom Kubis, Alvin Henry, Steve Crum, and Penny Watson.

Long Beach State Commercial Music alumni, many of whom are active as Hollywood studio musicians, have written and performed with such artists as:

**Jazz Artists:** Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Quincy Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Don Ellis, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Freddie Hubbard, Eddie Harris, Stanley Clark, Dave Grusin, Larry Carlton, George Duke, Louis Bellson, B.B. King, John Scofield, Michele LeGrand, Phil Upchurch, Dave Pike, Ray Charles, John Clayton, Toshiko Akiohi, Lew Tabakin, Branford, Marsalis, Red Rodney, Ira Sullivan, Randy Brecker, Eliane Elias, Warren Bernhart, Michael Brecker, Marvin Stamm, Dave Bargeron, Howard Johnson, Gene Harris, Les Brown, Bill Watrous, Carmen McCrae, Flora Purim, Bobby Bryant, Airtio, Dave Weckl, Vinny Colaiuta, Eric Marienthal, Eddie Daniels, Tom Scott, Gary Foster, Jack Sheldon, Maynard Ferguson, Howard Alden, Ken Peplowski, Raul De Souza, Albert King, L. Subramaniam, Alex Acuña, Les McCann, Benn Clatworthy, and Gerald Wilson;

**Film Composers:** Jerry Goldsmith, Henry Mancini, Patrick Williams, Bill Conte, Allen Sylvestry, Elmer Bernstein, Lalo Schiffrin, Mike Post, Pete Carpenter, Randy Edelman, Ira Newborn, Bruce Broughton, Steve Dorff, Alf Clausen;

**Recording Artists:** Barbara Streisand, Bill Cosby, The Carpenters, Frank Zappa, Bob Hope, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt, Paul Simon, The Rippingtons, Barry Manilow, José Feliciano, Diana Ross, The Beach Boys, The Supremes, The Temptations, Men at Work, Allen Holdsworth, Tom Baylor, John Davidson, Leslie Uggums, Penny Como, Helen Reddy, Vicky Carr, Tony Orlando, Burt Convey, Mac Davis, Ray Coniff, Johnny Mann, Frankie Avalon, Bobby Vinton, Suzanne Sommers, Greg Walker.

Former Commercial music students have performed on numerous film and television scores as musicians and actors for jingles and record dates, in major stage productions such as *Evita*, *Cats*, and *City of Angels*; in television shows such as *Fernwood Tonight*, *Fame*, *The Late Show with Joan Rivers*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *The Tonight Show* (both Carson and Leno), the Grammy Awards, the Emmy Awards, and the American Cinema Awards; and also for organizations such as the Harlem Opera Company of New York, Disneyland, Disney World, the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the Los Angeles Raiders Band, the Los Angeles Rams Band, the Long Beach Civic Light Opera, and the Long Beach Municipal Band.