

IT'S A GOOD DAY



BOOKING JANUARY 2016

ROSSANO SPORTIELLO piano, NICKI PARROTT bass/vocals, EDDIE METZ JR., drums

(Sportiello, Metz and Parrott) had the crowd buzzing during intermission and rising en masse for a standing ovation...

KEN FRANCKLING/JAZZTIMES

Together, they are the most elegant trio around!

DICK HYMAN

**...pure straight ahead heaven...
doesn't miss a beat or drop a false note...**

CHRIS SPECTOR, MIDWEST RECORD

ANY DAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR SOME SONGS

Many recording sessions are tense affairs, because the musicians feel the pressure of trying to make each note and phrase a little jewel. But at a Rossano Sportiello session, his delight in being allowed to make music, his easy assurance that there is no need to rush, makes everyone feel relaxed and joyous. No one could feel tense when his directions to the other musicians are so gentle, "You watch me. Maybe something nice will come out." During playbacks, the control room was atypically quiet, because everyone (including visitors Harry Allen and Rebecca Kilgore) was busy listening and smiling.

This trio is a friendly supportive community. Each voice is equal yet the three players come together from the first notes in a lovely synergy. Hear Ed Metz's beautiful touch, his light-hearted rhythms that recall Jake Hanna so well: feathery brushwork or explosive accents. (Ed provides wonderfully apt incidental percussion, too.) Hear Nicki Parrott's swinging pulse, the rich sonorities of her bass. During this session, I would have sworn I heard a rhythm guitar because her sound is so ripe and full. As a singer, Nicki is one with the song. Her subtle, understated delivery is always convincing, whether she's being perky or rueful.

Rossano, Nicki, and Eddie offer uplifting art. Without delivering a sermon or being overly serious, they speak to us. Their message? "We have much to tell you - about love, creativity, singing melodies, dancing rhythms. We may play sad songs, but we know that being alive is good. Music makes it even better."

One person couldn't be present for the date: Mat Domber, the guiding spirit of Arbors Records, who died in 2012. But before a note had been played, Jim Czak brought out the director's chair cover stenciled C.B. DOMBER (Mat happily circled the room with his hand-held video camera throughout many Arbors sessions). We all felt that Mat - cheerful, enthusiastic, generous - was in the room, enjoying the music with us.

MICHAEL STEINMAN / JAZZ LIVES

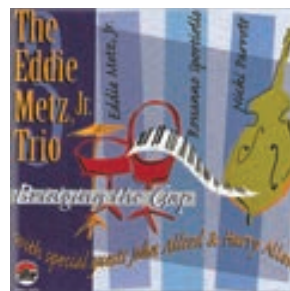


Rossano Sportiello, Nicki Parrott,
Eddie Metz
IT'S A GOOD DAY
Arbors Jazz ARCD 19431

- Theme from "Grumpy Old Men" End Title
- Pick Yourself Up
- Quintessence
- Lavender Blue
- This Is No Laughing Matter
- It's A Good Day
- Don't Love Me
- Theme from "2nd Movement of the Piano Sonata n. 8 Op. 13"
- Too Late Now
- For You, For Me, Forevermore
- Last Night When We Were Young
- Invention
- Jesu, Joy of Men's Desiring
- St. Louis Blues

Rossano Sportiello, Nicki Parrott,
Eddie Metz
LIVE AT THE JAZZ CORNER
Arbors Jazz ARCD 19437

- Beats Up
- Gal in Calico
- Besame Mucho
- Honeysuckle Rose
- Li'l Darlin'
- Blue and Sentimental
- Spanish Eyes
- Chopin Medley
- Nocturne Op 9 No.2, Fantasie
- Impromptu Op 66, Valse Op 64
- No 1, the "Minute Waltz"
- Fever
- St. Louis Blues



Eddie Metz Jr. Trio
BRIDGING THE GAP
Arbors Jazz ARCD 19374

- Falling in Love with Love
- Huggin' Higgins
- Overjoyed
- I'm Old Fashioned
- Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)
- Bodhisattva
- NER Blues
- One Less Bell to Answer
- The More I See You
- Crazy Life
- Little Girl
- More Than You Know
- Gotta Get a Hold of Myself



Award-winning jazz pianist **ROSSANO SPORTIELLO** was born in Vigevano, Italy on 1 June 1974. He began studying the piano at the age of 9 under the tutelage of Italian classical pianist Carlo Villa and continued until his graduation in classical piano from the Conservatory in 1996. By the age of 16, Rossano was performing professionally at jazz venues in the Milan area. In 1992, he joined one of Europe's historic jazz bands, the "Milano Jazz Gang" touring with the group throughout Italy and West Europe until the end of 2000. In the same year, Rossano met legendary jazz pianist and educator, Barry Harris, who became a mentor and good friend. Mr. Harris has touted Rossano as "the best stride piano player" he has ever heard and on several occasions has invited Rossano to perform during his own performances.

Stylistically, although international critics consider Rossano a follower of Ralph Sutton, Dave McKenna and Barry Harris, the influence of other great masters can be heard in his playing, such as Fats Waller, Teddy Wilson, Art Tatum, Count Basie, Earl Hines, Ellis Larkins and Bill Evans, to name a few. Rossano was introduced as a soloist by trombonist/arranger Dan Barrett and drew international acclaim at the 2002 Ascona Jazz Festival (Switzerland) while performing with the eight-piece, all-star American band led by Barrett, which was enthusiastically received by the audience and critics alike. Rossano has performed several times at Ascona since and standing ovations after his performances are not uncommon. In July, at the 25th anniversary of the festival, Rossano received the 2009 Ascona Jazz Award in recognition of his expertise and mastery of jazz piano, in particular stride piano.

Rossano made his first trip to the U.S. and was introduced to the American audience at the invitation of Mat Domber (Arbors Records) to perform at the 2003 "March of Jazz" party in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Following his marriage to American writer, Lala Moore, in 2007, Rossano established himself in New York City.

Rossano has recorded four solo piano CDs, including *In the Dark* (2004, Sackville); *Piano On My Mind* (2005, Jazz Connaisseur), which won the "Prix Du Jazz Classique de l'Académie du Jazz de France"; *Heart and Soul* (2006, Arbors Records), selected by the French magazine *Jazz Classique* among the top 10 of the year; and most recently, *It Amazes Me* (2009, Sackville). Rossano recorded two duet CDs with bassist/singer Nicki Parrott on Arbors Records, *Do It Again* (2009) and *People Will Say We're In Love* (2007), which was selected by *The New Yorker* magazine as one of the top 10 jazz CDs of 2007. Rossano also has three jazz CDs featuring classical music, *Chopin in Jazz* (2010, SwingBros), *Schubert in Jazz* (2011, SwingBros) and *Listz in Jazz* (SwingBros).



"Nicki brings clear articulation, beautiful tone, a sense of rhythmic assuredness and a touch of allure to inventive arrangements." *Jazz Times 2012*

"She has that special gift you cannot buy in a music store." *Les Paul*

"...must see... show stopping..." *Jon Weber, NPR Piano Jazz 2011*

"...a rarity, a first-class bassist whose playing is as sublime as her vocals." *Limelight 2012*

"Nicki Parrott can make anyone love jazz!" *Cabaret Scenes*

With expressive elegance, **NICKI PARROTT** has charmed audiences worldwide with her delightful performances showcasing her dynamic voice and commanding musicianship.

In 2013 Nicki released *The Best of Venus Volume One* on her own label, Ooroo Records as well as *The Look of Love* on Venus Records. In 2012, Venus released *Sakura, Sakura (Spring)*, *Summertime*, *Autumn Leaves* and *Winter Wonderland*. Nicki's 2008 CD release (Venus Records), *Fly Me To The Moon* and 2007 CD release (Venus Records), *Moon River* were voted *Swing Journal Magazine* Critic's Poll, "Best Jazz Vocal Album."

Nicki performs regularly on Monday nights at the Iridium Jazz Club in New York City as part of the legendary Les Paul Trio. Nicki was Les Paul's bassist and vocalist for over 10 years. In addition to performing at most of the world's top jazz festivals, Nicki has performed with such jazz greats as Randy Brecker, Clark Terry, Jose Feliciano, Rebecca Paris, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli, Dick Hyman, Patti Labelle & the New York Pops Orchestra, Harry Allen, Michel Legrand, Marlana Shaw, Mike Stern, David Krakauer, Ken Peplowski, Ann Hampton Callaway, Scott Hamilton, Larry Carlton and Victor Wooten.



EDDIE METZ, JR. was born in Allentown, PA and raised in Ann Arbor, MI. “Little Eddie” was given his first pair of drumsticks at the age of three from the drummer in his Dad’s dixieland band. At the age of 12 he played his first professional job and hasn’t stopped since.

In 1982, while attending the acclaimed jazz studies program at William Paterson College of NJ, Eddie spent six months touring with the Count Basie Orchestra. Known for his rock solid time and swinging musical approach, Eddie has become the drummer of choice for many jazz performers. A short list includes such names as Dick Hyman, Warren Vache’, Jr., Chick Corea, Michael Feinstein, The Woody Herman Orchestra, Clark Terry, Arturo Sandoval, Scott Hamilton, Bill Allred, Bucky Pizzarelli, Ralph Sutton, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra with Buddy Morrow, Eddie Higgins, Ken Peplowski, Tommy Newsom, Wycliff Gordon, Kenny Drew, Jr., Bob Wilber, Kenny Davern, Milt Hinton, and many more.

Over the past fifteen years, Eddie has recorded on several labels including Arbors Jazz, Fantasy, Apple Jazz and many others produced by independent artists. In 1999, the Nagel-Heyer label of Hamburg, Germany, gave him the opportunity to record his first c.d. as a leader. The recording titled *Tough Assignment* is a tribute to Dave Tough, one of the great drummers of the 30’s and 40’s. Eddie’s hand picked musicians included Harry Allen, Randy Sandke, John Allred, Allan Vache’, Johnny Varro and Phil Flanigan.

In 2008, Eddie and his trio, the sensational Rossano Sportiello on piano and the wonderful Nicki Parrott on bass were asked to record on Arbors Records. This was Eddie’s first (as a leader) for Arbors. *Bridging The Gap* not only has familiar songs from the great American songbook but also a few tunes from the 60’s and 70’s as they tried to bridge the gap between these two musical era’s. The great drummer and Eddie’s good friend, Danny Gottlieb, wrote the liner notes and described it as “one of the best drummer led recordings in recent history.” Harry Allan and John Allred also join the group for a few cuts.

For the past 24 years Eddie has lived in the Orlando, Florida area where he spent 14 years as a full time staff musician at Walt Disney World. He continues to work at Disney as a seasonal performer and clinician and is also on the teaching staff at several jazz camps around the country including Sacramento and Mammoth Lakes, CA. Eddie keeps an active schedule traveling the world with a calendar full of concerts, festivals, tours, jazz cruises and recordings.



To book Rossano Sportiello, Nicki Parrott and Eddie Metz, Jr. Trio
contact:

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