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Two for the Show Media
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Saxophonist Steve Wilson and Drummer Lewis Nash release “Duologue” (MCG Jazz)
A live performance captured March 16/17, 2013 at The Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Steve Wilson's name on a jazz bill is as close to a guarantee of quality as you'll ever find” -- Time Out NY

“Lewis Nash is perhaps the most talented drummer of his generation.”— Ira Gitler

Saxophone. Drums. That’s it. A fearless confidence, bold daring and a serious sense of playfulness mark *Duologue*, coming from MCG Jazz on August 5th. Eschewing bass and all chordal ornamentation, saxophonist Steve Wilson and drummer Lewis Nash invert an old maxim, proving that less is sometimes more. *Duologue*, although the work of only two musicians, is as rich and enveloping as that of any full band. While the sax-drums combo has been tried before, particularly in jazz’s avant-garde, Wilson and Nash never leave melody behind—their dual statements sing and swing, even as the pair jump off into part unknown and unexpected.

Says Nash about the duo format, “It allows what I’m playing to be heard more clearly. I like the fact that some of the more subtle things I do are more audible. Without a bass, you’re able to hear the tonality and tuning of the bass drum a bit better, but conceptually I still play the same as if the bass and piano were present. In the duo setting, Steve and I are able to focus more directly on each other without clutter or distraction. There’s simply more open space available, which allows us to communicate with more clarity. It’s like going on stage and having a conversation. I like that fact that it’s the kind of performance situation that allows us to trust our intuitive and creative senses.”

Adds Wilson, “From the first time I heard Lewis I wanted to play with him, which didn’t happen until a few years after. We hear rhythm and melody much the same, so it’s like two people playing with one brain. Our performances are like flying without a net and we constantly surprise even ourselves, but it’s as natural as breathing. This duo is an entity, not a novelty or diversion, and those who have heard us really get that.”

Duologue’s 11 tracks are well chosen to illustrate the range Wilson and Nash are capable of achieving. Opening with two timeless Ellington classics—“Caravan” and “The Mooche”—and venturing as far afield as Ornette Coleman’s “Happy House,” the two virtuosos achieve a rare connection throughout, one that listeners will easily embrace along with them. Two different medleys of Monk tunes, Eddie Harris’ soulful “Freedom Jazz Dance,” Fats Waller’s iconic “Jitterbug Waltz” and a no-holds-barred closer of Dizzy Gillespie’s “Woody ’N’ You.” These classics are joined by three strong Wilson originals that feel right at home within such lofty company. “Black Gold,” Wilson’s tribute to Pittsburgh’s cultural heritage and iconic sports teams, the bluesy “RCJG,” paying homage to jazz masters Ron Carter and Jimmy Giuffre, and Wilson’s solo, “Row Twelve.” The two virtuosos achieve a rare connection throughout this recording, one that listeners will easily embrace along with them.

Wilson and Nash both are leaders of their own ensembles as well as having performed with some of the most celebrated artists in jazz, including Chick Corea, McCoy Tyner, Dave Holland, Joe Lovano, Mulgrew Miller, Tommy Flanagan, Lionel Hampton, Betty Carter, Sonny Rollins, Ron Carter, Maria Schneider, Christian McBride, Blue Note 7 and many others. And since 2001, when they first performed together as a duo, Wilson and Nash have developed a special musical relationship that approaches the telepathic. Their performances explore jazz standards while creating a fresh new repertoire, and offer an intimate peek into the creative process. Nash has said that he and Wilson use familiar songs to give listeners a chance to observe their process and directly experience “the ways we can deconstruct that material,” creating “a casual, living-room kind of experience.” *Duologue*, as its play-on-words title implies, is a conversation between two old friends.

On the heels of the release of *Duologue* – available in CD and downloadable formats August 5, 2014, upcoming Steve Wilson / Lewis Nash Duo engagements include one of the newest clubs on the jazz scene, Side Door Jazz in Old Lyme, CT on October 17, and a residency and concert at the University of Dayton Nov 3-6, with more dates to be added for 2015.

About Steve Wilson / Lewis Nash Duo:

Steve Wilson / Lewis Nash Duo has been playing for diverse audiences and presenters since their debut in July of 2001. The two had been talking about forming this duo, so they seized upon an opportunity to perform at Jazz at the Loft at Quilty's in the SoHo district of NYC. It was magic from the first notes. Encouraged by the initial response and to grow their audience Steve and Lewis went on to perform several times at Sweet Rhythm (formerly Sweet Basil) in NYC, on a duo series that club owner James Brown presented. Over the past 13 years, the Duo has performed at diverse venues including the Lakewood Cultural Center in Lakewood, CO, Williams Center for the Arts in Lafayette College in Easton, PA, St. Michael's College in Burlington, VT, The Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro, VT, Sugar Loaf Jazz in Warwick, NY, and at Umbria Winter Jazz Fest in Orvieto, Italy where they played four sold out concerts between Christmas and New Year's of 2014.

One engagement that bears a special mention is the Duo's performance at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh, PA in March of 2013. MCG Jazz Executive Producer, Marty Ashby, knowing both Steve and Lewis individually, said he, "could only imagine what they would be together." Ashby readily agreed to present the Duo on the MCG Jazz concert season and make a live recording. Wilson and Nash are proud that their debut recording is on MCG Jazz, and are very grateful that Marty took this major step with them. "There are only a select few musicians that have the musicianship and historical context to sustain a full program with just sax and drums." Ashby goes on to say, "Working with Lewis and Steve on this unique project fits perfectly with the mission of MCG Jazz to showcase and bring the finest Jazz Music to the public eye."

Their performances, which display great musicality and artistry, playfulness, and a deep understanding of the history of the music, plus the vast experiences they have had in their long, storied careers, that make every tune they play a new adventure. It's an exciting, journey that wins audiences over every time. Wilson and Nash always exceed expectations and audiences wonder at how much music just two people can create. As Bob Karlovits of the Pittsburgh Tribune Review has said, these two "...players really don't need anyone else around them."

Steve Wilson has attained ubiquitous status in the studio and on the stage with the greatest names in jazz, as well as critical acclaim as a bandleader in his own right. A musician's musician, Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 100 recordings led by celebrated and wide-ranging artists.

Master percussionist, Lewis Nash, has one of the longest discographies in jazz, earning him the honor of being named Jazz's Most Valuable Player by Modern Drummer magazine. Lewis' versatility as an educator and musician makes his lectures, clinics and workshops as much in demand as his bandstand and studio work.

Steve Wilson and Lewis Nash are both available for Interview at this time.

For more information on **Steve Wilson** visit: www.stevewilsonmusic.com

For more information on **Lewis Nash** visit: www.lewisnash.com

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