*JazzNights (68)*

For some reason, in the past we have struck out on a couple of attempts to get Bill Mays here. So, when Martin Wind emailed that they were available as a duo next month, we jumped at the chance. Both these gentlemen are “musicians’ musicians” and their chemistry together is no surprise given their long association.

Martin Wind is classically trained (as is Mays) and is the winner of both competitions and commissions. He is a regular with the Bill Mays Trio, Matt Wilson’s “Arts and Crafts” group (how very Matt Wilson that name is!), and many others. He has played with “everyone” and currently is my colleague on the faculty of NYU. You may have heard him here at *JazzNights 54*, with Carol Morgan, or at our collaboration with the Princeton Festival last year playing with Tim Horner.

Here’s what Bill Mays has to say about his association with Martin and Matt Wilson:

“I found a connection with my trio of drummer [Matt Wilson](http://www.mattwilsonjazz.com/) and bassist Martin Wind that was truly special. They bring so much to the table from their vast playing experiences; the technical concerns are out of the way and the interplay with them is uncanny. The music seems to be coming from one head! And I greatly value their contributions as composers."

Bill Mays, like Martin Wind, has played these days with many groups, big and small, among them an unusual duo with trumpeter Marvin Stamm (you can hear these two the day after *JazzNights 68* at the Deer Head Inn). Here is what Stamm has to say about Bill Mays:

"Can you imagine what it is like to play with someone who always makes you 'push the envelope,' encouraging you to reach down and create from your deepest resources? Someone who weaves such tapestries for you to meld with and then to take flight from, that you always feel as if you could ascend to great heights from that place? Well, this is what I experience working with Bill Mays.

Bill Mays has a simply astonishing pedigree. Not only does he have impeccable jazz credentials, with a “who’s who” of collaborators, and a long list of the best venues played in, but he’s a high-demand accompanist for singers (always a great sign) among them Sarah Vaughn, Anita O’Day, and Frank Sinatra. Not bad! A measure of his versatility can be gained by noting that he played with Frank Zappa, the Indian electric-violinist Dr. L. Subramanian, and with the Cycle Sluts, one of the first drag-queen Rock ‘n’ Roll groups!

But I can assure you (with some relief) that it is not Rock, but great jazz we will hear from these two next May 23 – hope you can make it.

Some suggested CDs and one LP for you vinyl heads

**Wind**:

Turn Out the Stars, 2014,

Remember October 13th – Wind, with Mays and Wilson – vinyl

Get it? 2010, with Scott Robinson, Bill Cunliffe, Tim Horner

**Mays:**

Our Time- Sondheim Duos 2013, with Tommy Cecil

Live at the Jazz Standard, 2004 with Mays and Wilson

By Ourselves, 2003 with Marvin Stamm