

STEVE BLANCO

jazz piano
composer
filmmaker

I like to create in whatever way I can. The medium makes no difference to me so long as it is expressive and personal.

In this life I happened upon music and cinema with music being an absolute and uncontrollable passion.

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Thanks for visiting my epk.

STEVE BLANCO

BIO

JAZZ PIANIST, COMPOSER and FILMMAKER Steve Blanco has been forging ahead with self-made creative works for over a decade. Born in Nyack, New York to a French-speaking Moroccan belly dancer (mother) and film editor with a love of music and art (father), Blanco was exposed to artistic expressions from many different cultures. Growing up he learned the trumpet then drums and didn't arrive at the piano until age 23.

Blanco's music has been called "Progressive Jazz at its finest" and his latest album Piano Warrior (Art Of Life Records) is said to "Move like the warrior of its title - FEROCIOUSLY and in an ever-changing terrain."

Blanco was selected to serve as a music composition grant panelist for the prestigious New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA).

He has released three critically acclaimed CDs, produced a music video (directed by Blanco) and currently leads a piano trio with Adam Roberts and Sunny Jain, but performs regularly in solo and duo settings.

Steve also contributes to the Munich-based Orkaan Orchestra led by composer and bassist Juergen Reiter .

In addition to performing music on a professional level, Blanco has directed eight short films (many of which have been official selections at festivals), written a feature – length script, and scored several of these films. He has served as writer, editor and cinematographer either altogether or in combinations on each of these films. He has been producer on all.



Pianist Steve Blanco should conceivably be making his mark on the global jazz scene"

–Glenn Astarita

Blanco accredits his father as a major influence in bringing to the surface an array of emotional experiences stemming from creative masterpieces in music, cinema, art, writings, and philosophy that he would have otherwise not been exposed to as a young child.

From his childhood music has always been a driving force and ever present in his existence. After teaching himself for a few years Blanco privately studied piano before receiving a B.F.A. from Purchase Conservatory in New York. Blanco is the CoFounder of Insomnia Creations with Louis Cuffari and James Bartolozzi, and a contributing editor for ic magazine.

Blanco resides in New York City.

STEVE BLANCO

PRESS QUOTES

“

Blanco combats any semblance of piano trio listening fatigue with explosive themes, subtle nuances and unanticipated shifts in tempo."

~Glenn Astarita

"It moves like the warrior of its title - ferociously and in an ever-changing terrain"

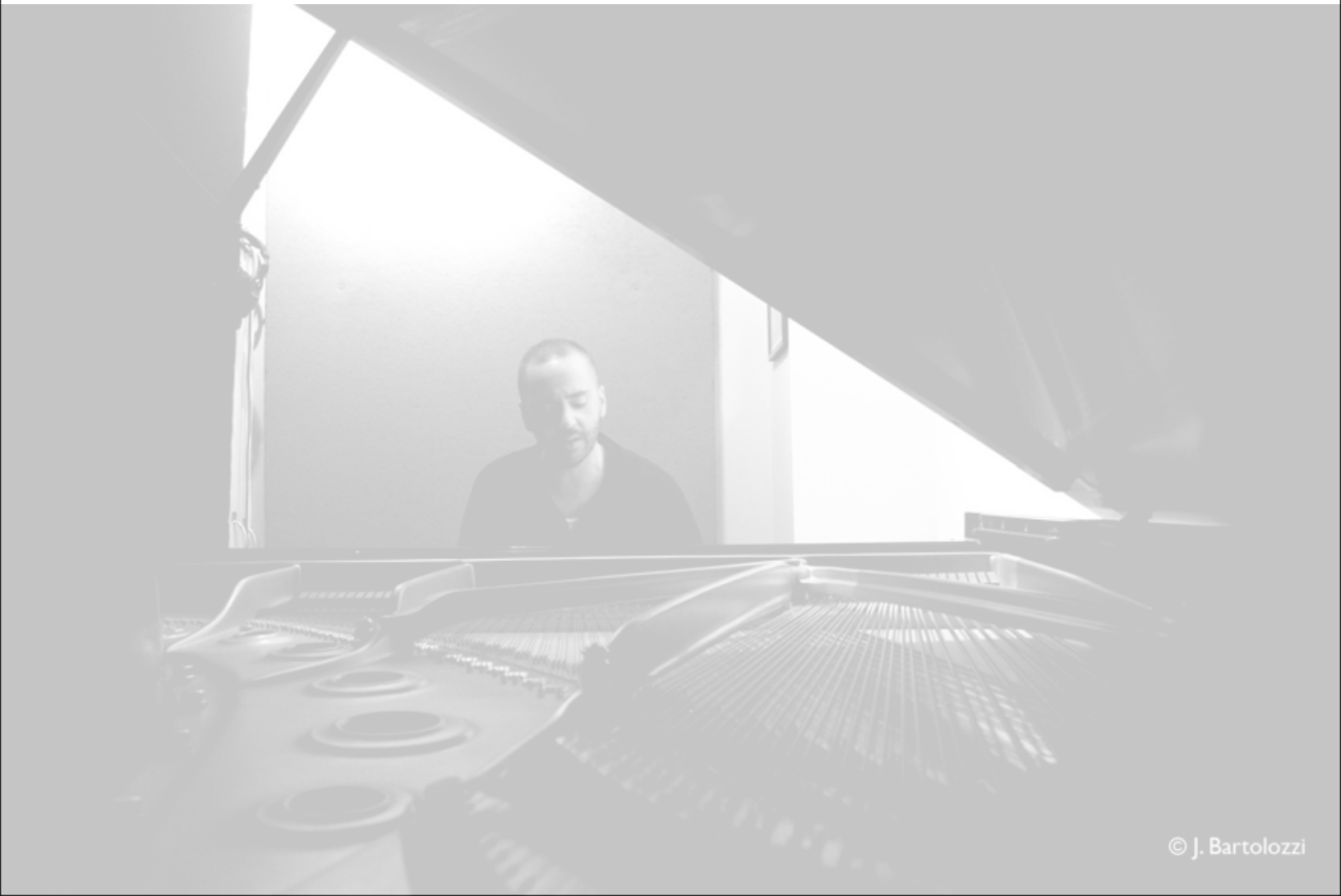
~Donald Elfman, *All About Jazz NY*

"This is progressive jazz at its finest"

~Ejazz News

"What one waits for from a musician"

~Jazz Hot



STEVE BLANCO



Steve Blanco Trio
Piano Warrior
in Jazzwise hot picks
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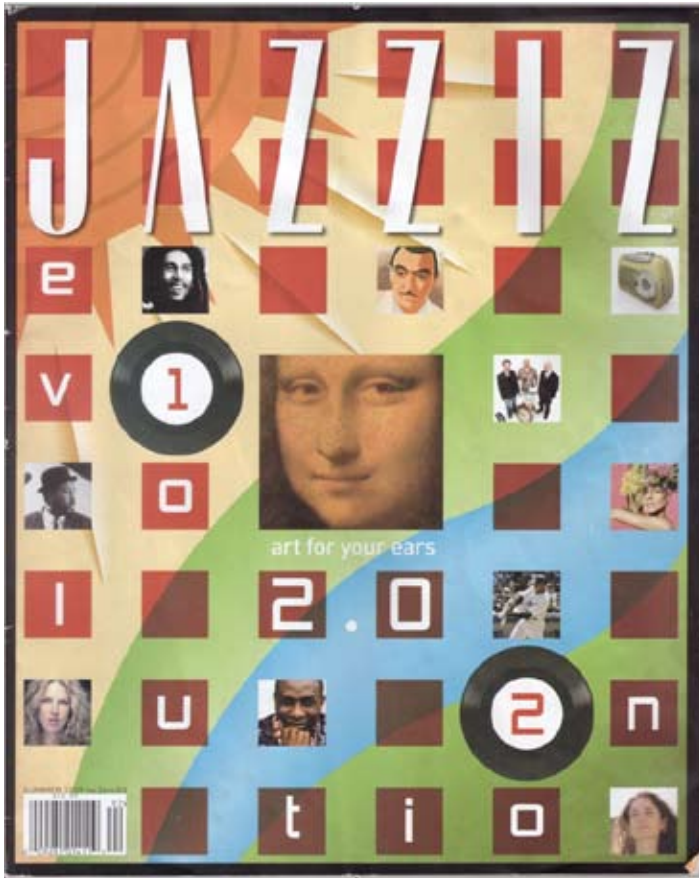
Charting the Jazz message \\\ JUNE09



JAZZWISE THE OFFICE VIBE Hot picks from the Jazzwise hydrogen jukebox

- 1 Christian McBride and Inside Straight *Kind of Brown Mack Avenue*
- 2 Keith Tinnett Sextet *A Loose Kite In a Gentle Wind Ogun*
- 3 Steve Blanco Trio *Piano Warrior Art of Life*
- 4 Zed-U *Night Time On The Middle Passage Babel*
- 5 Miles Davis *Collectors Items Prestige RVG*
- 6 Soft Machine *Vol 2 Polydor*
- 7 Julian Argüelles *Momenta Basho*
- 8 Tony Allen *Secret Agent World Circuit*
- 9 Grant Green *Street of Dreams Blue Note RVG*
- 10 Tortoise *Beacons Of Ancestorship Thrill Jockey*

STEVE BLANCO



Steve Blanco Trio
Piano Warrior
in Jazziz magazine
Bob Weinberg's New & Noteworthy #5

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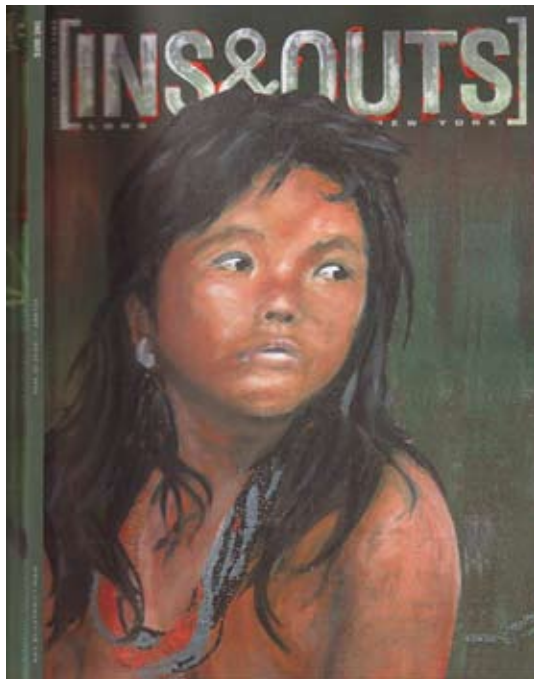
- ▲ **Fab Trio** *Live in Amsterdam* (Porter) — Three improvisational masters engage in spirited, spontaneous interchange on this captivating live disc. Billy Bang's skittering, edgy violin hardly dominates the conversation, as Joe Fonda's woody upright bass and Barry Altschul's dynamic drumming are featured prominently. Altschul proves again to be one of free jazz's most musical drummers.
- ▲ **Duke Ellington** *Such Sweet Thunder* (Columbia)
- ▲ **David "Fathead" Newman** *Ray Charles Presents David Newman* (Atlantic)
- ▲ **Carmen McRae** *Carmen Sings Monk* (RCA)
- ▲ **Sonny Rollins** *Alfie* (Impulse)

new and noteworthy

- ▲ **Marc Copland** *Night Whispers: New York Trio Recordings, Vol. 3* (Pirouet)
- ▲ **Gerald Cleaver, William Parker, Craig Taborn** *Farmers by Nature* (AUM Fidelity)
- ▲ **Garrison Fewell** *Variable Density Sound Orchestra* (Creative Nation)
- ▲ **Martial Solal** *Live at the Village Vanguard* (CamJazz)
- ▲ **Steve Blanco Trio** *Piano Warrior* (Art of Life)

STEVE BLANCO

Steve Blanco featured in Ins & Outs magazine



MUSIC FEATURE



STEVE BLANCO BORN AND RAISED IN NEARBY
Nyack, New York, jazz pianist, composer, and filmmaker Steve Blanco has had a bit of a restless life, spending time living in Spring Valley, New York, Midtown Manhattan, and even a stint as an exchange student in Europe. But four years ago, he finally settled in what might have been at the time the most unlikely of places for a progressive jazz musician – Long Island City.

"I lived in Midtown for a long time and a friend of mine told me to come out," Blanco said. Long Island City has gone through an unprecedented amount of change recently with new condominiums seemingly going up overnight. But what initially attracted Blanco to the neighborhood was that he could find an affordable apartment in which he could fit a piano and actually be able to practice while having someplace to hide away and relax, which is a rare thing in New York, unless you're tremendously lucky.

Also, there have been other unexpected benefits to living in Long Island City – and in general, Queens. "When you come out to the boroughs – in Queens or in Brooklyn – I feel that the audience might be a bit more open-minded. And I think they're getting a more hardcore musical experience, for the most part," Blanco added.

Blanco currently leads a piano trio with bassist Adam Roberts and drummer Sunny Jain, but regularly performs in solo and duo settings as well. While performing new material for an upcoming album which will hopefully include covers of Pink Floyd's "Us and Them" and Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog," he has found audiences at venues such as the Donsane Wine Bar in LIC being quite receptive to his self-professed brand of modern, progressive jazz. However, the open-mindedness of the so-called "outer borough" audience is a little known fact for those outside of New York City, due in part to Manhattan's glitz and visibility and to New York's immense size as a whole. But there may be hope yet.

Blanco mentions the fact that there is already a small bunch of artists in the neighborhoods of Astoria, Long Island City and the nearby Brooklyn neighborhoods of Greenpoint and DUMBO. "It's becoming one big hang, you know?" Steve mentioned, before adding that until there was a demand for a scene much like in other areas, he didn't know how long it would take for one to be created. "I'm trying to start one, myself," he joked.

Even if Queens is treated like the oft-neglected stepbrother to Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York City's place in American musical and cultural history is firmly cemented. After all, New York has been well-known for its vital jazz scene. When asked what would be needed for Queens to take its rightful place in modern musical lore, Blanco, like other Queens-based artists, suggested that more venues hosting music – especially more venues that are supportive of modern jazz – would help to create a truly new scene, completely different from any other seen before.

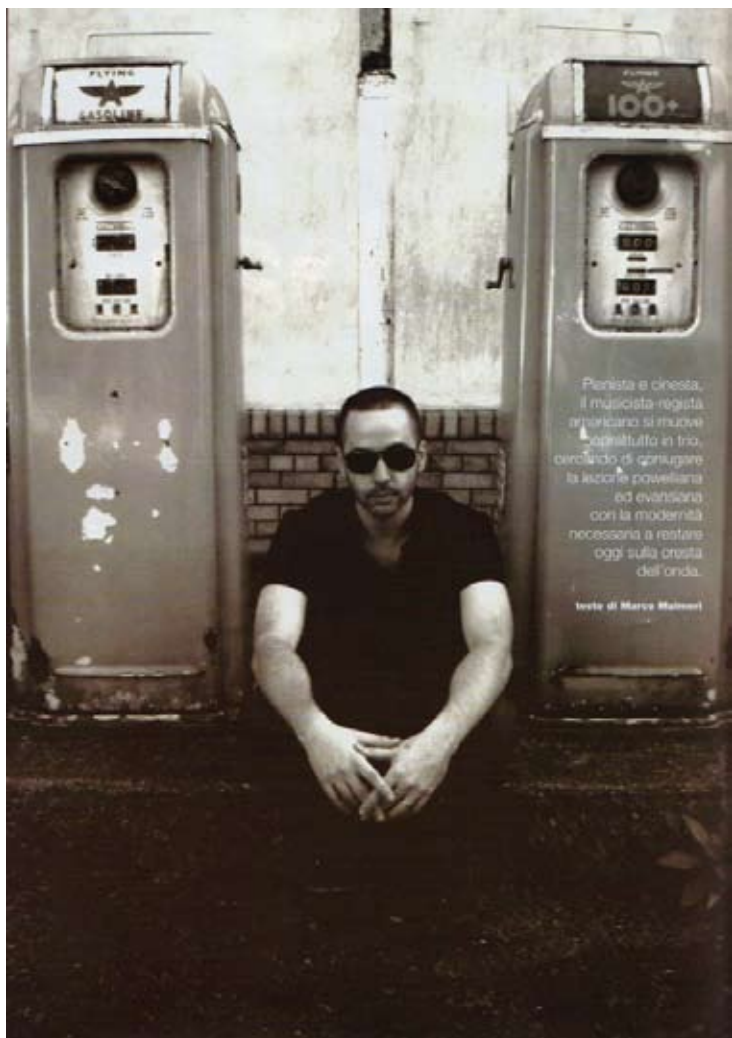
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 48 WWW.LICMAGAZINE.COM

STEVE BLANCO



Steve Blanco featured in Italy's JAZZ magazine



Penata e cinista, il musicista-regista anticipa le nuove espressioni in trio, cercando di coniugare la lezione postwariana ed evasione con la modernità necessaria a restare oggi sulla cresta dell'onda.

testo di Marco Mainoni

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Steve BLANCO

Un burlone globalizzato

Uno strano personaggio Steve Blanco: nella sua pagina MySpace descrive la sua musica come "jazz sperimentale/beat-music", ma ascoltando la quinta traccia del concerto, il suo jazz non sembra affatto sperimentale né death metal. Si pensa "è un burlone" e, in effetti, leggendo le forti sue dichiarazioni, il dubbio viene: Ludwig van Beethoven, Igor Stravinskij, George Ligeti, The Beatles, Miles Davis, McCoy Tyner, Sam Powell, Arnett Shaheed, John Sebastian Bach, Art Tatum, John Coltrane, Keith Jarrett, Chick Corea, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, Albert Camus, Franz Kafka, Friedrich Nietzsche, Spike Jonze, Stanley Kubrick, Jean-Luc Godard, Woody Allen, la musica maccheronica, vignette e fumetti. Ma più che un burlone, alla fine, si capisce che gliel'è così e che un unico esempio di "artista globalizzato" - che fa del jazz ma anche dell'altro. Sembra il piano e si avvicina regolarmente al Domaine Wine Bar di New York e, parallelamente, visita anche certi cinematografi per la sua Immersive Creation, una società di produzione musicale e cinematografica fondata insieme a Louis Cuffari e James Barakatta.

Uno strano personaggio Steve Blanco: un geniale jazz, compositore e anche regista che, da oltre dieci anni, lavora spesso a videoregistrazione e produce musica originale e "beat-music". Figlio di una famiglia del settore franco-mauritano e di un tecnico del montaggio appassionato di musica a anni, il sempre stato esposto alle espressioni artistiche da diversi anglisti culturali. Cresciuto, ha imparato prima la lingua, poi la batteria, infine, ritratto ai 23 anni, il piano, la camera, ha realizzato due otti, *Space Unlimited* (2005), e nome della cantante Aurie van Sursumpenti e *Contact* (2006), in cui con Adam Roberts, bassista e Sunny Jain, batterista, po-

drato e diretto dai video musicisti ("Oh And There" e "Contact"), e, in cui con Roberto e Zolt, si è esibito al Delmar Jazz Club, Wilkesburg Jazz Festival, Restaurant Music Hall, Watercolor Café, Café Nocturne, The Museum of American Folk Art, Bimhuis di Amsterdam, ecc. L'attuale in trio, però, non gli ha impedito di portare avanti e di sviluppare concerti di piano solo e due strumentali come testimonio il suo ultimo cd, *Semblance* (2007), con il pianista Jeremy Wims, insieme all'esperienza con il Diskan Orchestra di Maurizio Gemina, diretta dal bassista-compositore Juergen Roloff.

In aggiunta, come detto piano, ha scritto, diretto, montato e prodotto, da solo o in collaborazione, diversi corti, fra cui *140* (diretto e ispirato sotto al Pioneer Short Film Show di New York), *The Musician* (realizzato al New York International Film Festival), *The Fish* (realizzato al San Francisco Short Film Festival) e *Discipline* (realizzato al Harlem International Film Festival), curandone anche le colonne sonore.

Contact, disco di debutto del trio, da lui abbiamo tratto la "short-

name inspiration", "Northbound Image", si presenta un Blanco ben preparato in un approccio jazz dalle sfumature influenti, che tocca la sua origine nella tradizione di Bill Evans, passa per l'innovazione musicale, fonda e aggiunge di McCoy Tyner's *Abstract Janus* e giunge al suo pieno compimento in un'emozione sintesi fra classica, world e jazz, simile a quello di Jean-Michel Pilc. Accanto a composizioni originali di gran fascino, dalle liriche, impressionistiche, minimali, dalle atmosfere, ridotte, ritmiche e dalle irregolarità, complesse armonie, trovano spazio anche due canzoncine rievocate la classica-classica "Violin fugitive", tratte dall'"Opera 22, N. 2" di Sergei Prokofiev (forse, una "vignetta a distanza" e Pilc che, nel suo ultimo cd *New Orleans*, ha ricreato in maniera altrettanto affascinata "Widmung" di Robert Schumann e la classica jazz "Nardis" di Miles Davis, brano antico ma sempre sorprendentemente realizzabile).

Da segnalare, poi, il titolo e il stesso titolo e avvertire in reply del trio, tanto di impetosi e contenti feedback, come il scattante, larghi viaggi, che, se da una parte, è mondo, amore era vola, al trio di Evans, dell'altro, ha corrispettivi anche nella fusione del Weather Report e nel pop-jazz del Bud Powell. Un esempio, fra tutti, è l'emozione registrata "Contact".

Una strano personaggio Steve Blanco: un pianista, improvvisatore e passionale alto stesso tempo, che fa una musica né allegro né triste, "semplicemente" meraviglioso di quel mondo reale, che, a causa per merito della globalizzazione, mira sempre più a unificare culturalmente un po' da una parte, un po' dall'altra. Lo strumento e "partitura" deve fare di "Urban Desires" e "The Model" ne sono un perfetto esempio: quasi allora, addirittura, termina con un simbolo "simbolo di silenzio".

JAZZMAGAZINE - febbraio 2008

STEVE BLANCO

The Trio



The critically acclaimed Steve Blanco Trio was formed 5 years ago with Steve Blanco (piano), Sunny Jain (drums), and Adam Roberts (bass). Since then the ensemble has distinguished themselves as a powerful musical force steeped in tradition, cutting edge modern, and at times, borderline avant-garde.

The group's first record, *Contact* was self-released to rave reviews and allowed the trio to refine their musical vocabulary, which subsequently led to the release of their second album, *Piano Warrior* (Art Of Life Records). Art Of Life's roster includes such notable artists as Eddie Gomez, Gary Husband, Tony Moreno, Bob Mintzer, and others.

In 2008 the trio was selected out of over 2000 artists as the first place winner in the Digital Cafe Tour competition and had a performance filmed at the Baggott Inn in NYC. They've also been featured in magazines such as *All About Jazz NY*, *Ins & Outs*, *Jazz and Tzaz*, and *Italy's Jazz Magazine*, with a track on their CD sampler.

The three musicians tastefully employ their virtuosic technique, careful not to lose sight of the whole and constantly interacting between one another. The result is a rich and rewarding experience for the listener.

With passionate melodic sensibilities, complex harmonic structures, and a strong rhythmic foundation the trio crosses in and out of many musical genres. Their music will surely delight and dazzle listeners with all kinds of musical taste.



This is progressive jazz at its finest"

-Ejazznews

"Bill Evans trio at its tightest, combined with the rambling, unpredictable theatricality of Ahmad Jamal at his best, and then increase the intensity quotient five notches."

-All About Jazz

"All three players are so alive and aware that the music literally jumps out of the speakers."

-Budd Kopman

"A great musical phenomenon"

-Rambles Magazine

STEVE BLANCO

MUSIC



Piano Warrior
Steve Blanco Trio
2009 Art Of Life Records
Steve Blanco - piano
Adam Roberts - bass
Sunny Jain - drums



Contact
Steve Blanco Trio
2006 Art Of Life Records
Steve Blanco - piano
Adam Roberts - bass
Sunny Jain - drums



Semblance
Steve Blanco & Jeremy Wilms
2007 Insomnia Creations
Steve Blanco - piano
Jeremy Wilms - guitars