

CAP Records

by Marcia Hillman

CAP (Consolidated Artists Productions) Records was founded around 1979 by pianist/arranger Mike Longo. Coming from a musical background that included working with Dizzy Gillespie as pianist and musical director for more than nine years, Longo started the label based on his belief that artists should be allowed to record what they want their audiences to hear. As he recalls, "I was signed with three different labels but they were all rock and roll. I had played a solo concert which we recorded, but at that time nobody was putting out a solo jazz piano record ... I already had Consolidated Artists Publishing because Dizzy Gillespie recorded a lot of my tunes. So I started the label and the first release was my live solo recital."

The company today consists of Co-Presidents Mike Longo and Dorothy Davis; Leo Greene, Vice President-Label and Dave Usher, CEO. Producer Usher was also closely associated with Gillespie in the early '50s when the pair formed DG Records, an independent label way ahead of its time. Greene had been involved with jazz as a saxophonist, arranger and composer but also had experience in the recording industry while with Chesky Records, in charge of sales and marketing and artist relations with players such as Red Rodney, Paquito D'Rivera, Monty Alexander, Phil Woods and Clark Terry among others.

The label does not solicit any product. Any artist who has a project recorded but no way to release it (either independently or through an established record company) can approach CAP, which will listen to the tape and vote on whether to add it to their roster. If the decision is favorable, the artist is offered a contract. At all times, the artist has complete control of the music and packaging components. If an artist does not have any sources for the packaging (artwork, liner notes and production), CAP will direct them to companies and people who can provide these services. CAP will also direct the artist to people and firms who can provide PR and radio promotion services. At every juncture, the artist has complete creative control of everything that goes into the finished product.

Vocalist Hilary Gardner (featured on the Kurt Weill Project's *A Song About Forever*) comments, "I think what Mike [Longo] is doing is wonderful. With many major jazz record companies struggling, Mike has made it possible to continue to get CDs out and allowing artists to be creative."

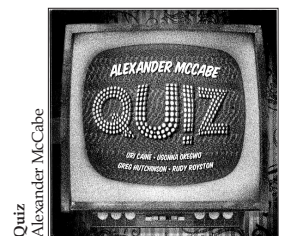
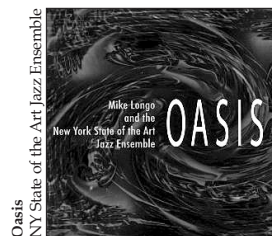
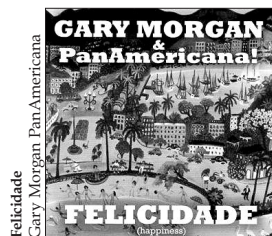
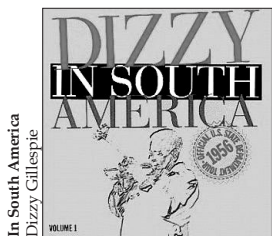
The label has a catalogue of over 100 pieces with an artist list that includes Gillespie (of course), Gary Morgan's Big Band, Michael Brecker, Clark Terry, Joe Lovano, JC Heard, Annie Ross, Toots Thielemans, Mike Longo, The New York Sax Quartet, John di Martino, Hilary Gardner, Tal Farlow, The New York Latin Jazz All Stars, Antoinette Montague, Lodi Carr and others. CD hard copies and downloads can be found on CDBaby, Amazon and directly from CAP's website.

The most recent acquisition for the label has been

the discovery of 'lost', unreleased recordings of live performances by Dizzy Gillespie in 1973 at Ronnie Scott's in London. Longo recalls, "The group was on fire that week and the word got out. Ronnie Scott held us over and the third week, one of the best recording engineers in England set up a recording booth in the checkroom. They had a whole team of engineers. They looked like doctors with white coats on. They recorded the whole last week - every show." "Subsequently," he continues, "Ronnie Scott died. The guy that made the recordings died. But somebody discovered the tapes in the club's basement and gave them to the engineer's wife. She gave them to us to find a way to put them out." Usher has been producing this project and the first of the releases is available at the moment on download only. According to Longo, eventually there will be four CD sets. "Dave is working with the tapes. Then, we've got six hours of video on Dizzy." Future product on CAP will include these videos.

The label also has an educational thrust. Longo's reputation as a teacher is well known and currently there is a DVD release by him available entitled *The Rhythmic Nature of Jazz*. Much of the material on this DVD is a result of the lengthy musical relationship between Longo and Gillespie. This educational video is under the label's Master Class Series and there will be future product in this series as well. Also on the label's educational side, for the evolving musician CAP offers "the most concise and effective studies available for today's serious musicians." These are

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LISTEN UP!

STEVEN LUGERNER is a woodwind doubler (saxophones, clarinets, flutes, oboe and English horn) currently residing in Bushwick, Brooklyn. His debut double-disc album - *Narratives/These Are The Words* - featuring both his septet and a bass-less quartet with two horns, will be released this month. A native of San Francisco, Lugerner maintains a busy performance schedule on both the East and West coasts.

Teachers: Jane Ira Bloom, Jamie Baum, Ralph Alessi, Fred Hersch, Chris Cheek, Miguel Zenon and Charles Pillow.

Influences: Saxophone - Lee Konitz, Paul Desmond, Art Pepper, Jackie McLean, Ornette Coleman and Henry Threadgill. Composition - Maria Schneider, Fred Hersch, John Hollenbeck, Myra Melford, Jamie Baum and Alan Ferber.

Current Projects: The Steven Lugerner Septet; *These Are The Words* with Myra Melford, Darren Johnston and Matt Wilson; *The Chives* - a collective trio with Matthew Wohl and Max Jaffe.

By Day: Trying to find time to practice all my instruments...

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... I first heard the Dave Holland Quintet during my freshman year of high school.

Dream Band: Fred Hersch, Drew Gress and Paul Motian.

Did you know? I live in Bushwick with 11 other New School graduate musicians. Since moving in we've been hosting bi-weekly performances at 1012 Willoughby.

For more information, visit stevenlugerner.com. Lugerner is at *Cornelia Street Café Mar*. 29th. See Calendar.



Steven Lugerner



Ryan Meagher

RYAN MEAGHER is a guitarist and composer that released an album of all original music in 2009 on Fresh Sound-New Talent entitled *Atroefy*. Meagher proclaims his music is "modern jazz for the indie rocker." Meagher's music is full of guitar-driven rhythms coupled with elaborate, yet singable melodies. Though he has what *JazzTimes* called an "unclimbed, freewheeling approach to his solos", his music focuses intently on featuring threads of improvisation woven within a thick fabric of plush composition.

Teachers: Peter Bernstein, Ben Monder, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Steve Cardenas. Currently studying improvised composition with Peter Epstein.

Influences: Nirvana, Clifford Brown, Jim Hall, James Brown's guitarists, Jim Black's AlasNoAxis, Nels Cline, the Shins, Will Ferrell.

Current Projects: My second *Atroefy* album on Fresh Sound-New Talent will include saxist Matt Blostein, drummer Vinnie Sperrazza, bassist Geoff Kraly and trumpeter Ralph Alessi. I also have a pet boogaloo project I named *Oddibe Funky* that is available for adoption by a loving record label.

By Day: Planning my wedding in July, getting my Master's degree and playing *Call of Duty*.

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... I realized I wasn't going to be a professional baseball player.

Dream Band: I write my compositions for Geoff and Vinnie so I already have a dream band. But one of these days I am going to get Nels Cline and Jim Black into a studio and we're going to play some really loud improvised music.

Did you know? I have had weird day jobs. I was the cue card guy at *Conan O'Brien* and *Saturday Night Live*. Also, I was a JetBlue flight attendant. I'm good friends with Seattle Mariners' closer, David Aardsma. I think it's odd that I am a liberal-minded, urban-dwelling jazz musician but I love fly fishing, own guns and I'm a Christian.

For more information, visit ryanmeagher.com. Meagher's *Atroefy* is at *Miles' Café Mar*. 16th. See Calendar.