

Mp3 Downtown Trio - U. City Blues



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Steeped in contemporary jazz, with the influences of their native U City -- a diverse cultural mix including gospel, jazz, funk, latin, and even classical music. 9 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Fusion, JAZZ: Weird Jazz

Details: The Downtown Trio is St Louis' premier jazz fusion group, emerging from the U City jazz scene, which has produced a tremendous number of world class jazz musicians. The music on their new CD "U City Blues" is dedicated to the place where they grew up and the people and events that shaped their music. The Downtown Trio has performed at the Riverport Jazz Festival, as well as warming up for major jazz tours including Al DiMeola, Michael Franks, the Yellowjackets, David Benoit, Hugh Masakela, Dave Weckl, and John Patitucci. The Downtown Trio's music can be heard in dozens of TV and radio productions, commercials, and films. The CD release concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall for "U City Blues" was a tremendous success. A Personal description of the songs: "You can't know where you are headed if you don't appreciate where you came from..." - Quincy Jones Stanford Avenue University City is a truly musical neighborhood... everybody played something! The three of us grew up on Stanford Avenue, where we all taught each other to play. U City Blues This was the piece that got us thinking about our roots. We wrote this piece, which incorporates elements of gospel, jazz, R&B, and fusion, and we began to reminisce about the incredible mix of musical styles that we grew up with, and how lucky we feel to have come from U City. The Lion This piece is dedicated to Charlie Pinckney, a good friend and keyboard player who taught us so much about music, and directed us toward albums by Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Billy Cobham, Lenny White, and many other jazz fusion greats. Charlie, wherever you are, thank you! Awakening At U City High, we marched in marching band at the crack of dawn on cold, foggy fall mornings. Rob and I both served in that army. As tough as it was, it was a powerful experience to be out in the early light making music, learning to move in time to the rhythms. In the Loop Incidentally,

now a hit on Smooth Jazz radio stations!) The U City Loop is a hot spot for musicians in St. Louis. Several clubs are located in the Loop, including Blueberry Hill, Cicero's, and Riddle's, where every style of music can be heard. Our beloved music store, Baton Music, is the place every local kid buys that first instrument. Invention I (J.S. Bach) This track came together while horsing around in the studio. Rob learned to play in 7/8 time while performing Greek music as a kid, and has been exploring odd meters ever since. We have been practicing a number of Bach's pieces for a possible future record called "Bach to the Future," and we started playing it in 7/8 for a laugh. We loved it, so we recorded it! Perhaps we should have called it "Re-Invention I...?" Ray's Place This joyful groove was inspired by Ray Parks and his dance studio, the Ray Parks Academy. I remember the energy that filled the entire place and the enthusiasm Ray brought to it. Ray is a true artist, teacher, and friend. The Gathering Jam sessions and drum circles are a favorite pastime among the gang we grew up with, in basements and garages, then in the clubs on Sunday and Monday nights. This is where we learned the trials and joys of playing music. We made this recording to honor our old neighborhood, and the continuing musical tradition that thrives in U City. -Mike Silverman, July 2003

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