

# JEFF ANTONIUK

SAXOPHONIST | COMPOSER | BANDLEADER

"Jeff Antoniuk and the Jazz Update are frequent and admired contributors to the Washington, DC jazz scene. This is a quartet steeped in a 21st century style of hard bop that still values solid melody lines, probing improvisation, and, when called for, sheer beauty."

— George Fendel, *Jazzscene*



JEFF ANTONIUK

Fueled by 12 years of accolades and awards for his work in the U.S., Canadian sax player Jeff Antoniuk formed the Jazz Update. The group released *Here Today* in 2007. The album quickly climbed the jazz charts in the US and Canada. Radio stations from Europe to Asia also took deep cuts of Antoniuk originals and luscious covers of Ellington, Monk and Golson. The album went into a second printing.

In May of 2010, *Brotherhood* was released to rave reviews from critics around the globe. From ballads to hard bop, the second album's sophisticated and engaging global jazz was delivered with depth and humor. Canadian jazz critic Jordan Richardson praised the "lush open spaces and oodles of finesse and skill."

Antoniuk has been lauded for both his four-carat compositions and heightened powers on the saxophone. Bill Milkowski of *Jazz Times* noted his "considerable chops" while Doug Morrissey of *MusikReviews.com* praised his "amazing saxophone playing."

In live performance, this seasoned quartet is known for inventive originals and peerlessly executed staples. Antoniuk has played the Edmonton International Jazz Festival and led his band at Juneau Jazz and Classics and Maryland Summer Jazz. Frequent guests of Blues Alley, the Smithsonian and Kennedy Center, the Jazz Update's influence radiates far from their Washington, DC base.

"*Brotherhood* stands as a boldly affirmative statement regarding the health and well being of modern jazz in the early 21st century."

— Dave Wayne, *Jazz Review.com*

**HOST JEFF ANTONIUK & THE JAZZ UPDATE FOR A MEMORABLE CONCERT, CRUISE OR CLINIC.**

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**THE JAZZ UPDATE** features (L to R) pianist Wade Beach, drummer Tony Martucci, saxophonist Jeff Antoniuk & bassist Tom Baldwin.

## ABOUT THE GROUP

"Jeff Antoniuk and the Jazz Update have proven themselves to be a quartet to be reckoned with. They unleash their mastery over 10 songs that will leave your searching for their first album, *Here Today*, in an effort to buy everything they have on the shelves."

— Doug Morrissey, *MusikReviews.com*



Jeff Antoniuk



Tom Baldwin



Wade Beach



Tony Martucci

## GROUP BIOGRAPHIES

- Saxophonist **JEFF ANTONIUK** is an internationally respected jazz composer and musician whose concerts and recordings are consistently well received by critics and fans. In the U.S. he has worked with diverse hit makers Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Bobbie McFerrin, Marcus Miller and Najee as well as Wes Anderson, Dave Ballou, Sherman Irby, Sherrie Maricle and Mike Pope. Antoniuk has performed with Canadian greats such as pop icon David Foster, sax legend PJ Perry, Senator Tommy Banks, big band leader Rob McConnell and Juno Award winners Brad Turner and Ingrid Jensen. He toured many continents. Said *Canadian Audiophile's* Jordan Richardson, "His sense of the global world of jazz is present with every note."

Antoniuk has been a featured teaching artist at the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival, the Edmonton International Jazz Festival, the Vic Lewis International Band Festival, MacEwan Summer Jazz and the Dorian Band Festival. He was formerly an adjunct faculty member at Luther College and Towson State University. He is artistic director of Maryland Summer Jazz and inDepth Jazz Clinics and a master teaching artist with Washington Performing Arts Society and the Capitol Jazz Project. He holds a master's degree in jazz performance and West African ethnomusicology from the University of North Texas.

- Bassist **TOM BALDWIN** has backed modern jazz greats like James Moody, George Garzone and Eric Alexander. He shines in countless venues such as the Wolfrap Jazz and Blues Festival and Princeton JazzFeast. Highly respected, the tasteful, articulate and inspired bassist teaches at the University of Maryland.
- Phenomenal pianist **WADE BEACH** is widely respected for his harmonic sophistication and superb technique, which knows no stylistic limitations. He holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland and toured the globe many times over with the Airmen of Note. He and Antoniuk have been praised mightily for their sax/piano duo performances at the Gaylord National Hotel as well as their work with the Jazz Update band. Beach is on the faculty of George Mason University and Maryland Summer Jazz.
- Drummer **TONY MARTUCCI** has played and recorded with giants from almost every period of jazz, including Mose Allison, Joe Henderson and Sonny Stitt. He teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University. *Music Monthly* said his "drum set magic is rich in detail and ambience." *Jazz Times* called Martucci "an exciting yet sensitive player with chops, taste."

## RECORDINGS

*Brotherhood* 2010



*Here Today* 2007



"A creative spark that never lets up."

— Ron Netsky, *Rochester City Newspaper*

"The fact that Antoniuk and his quartet are an actively-gigging, road-tested unit is no small factor in their artistic success." — Dave Wayne, *Jazz Review*

"Antoniuk and pianist Wade Beach showcase their considerable chops." — Bill Milkowski, *Jazz Times*

## THEME PROGRAMS FOR CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, CRUISES & CLINICS

In concert, Jeff Antoniuk and the Jazz Update play originals from two critically acclaimed albums along with informed interpretations of contemporary pieces and classics from 90 years of jazz. They have received many commissions for theme concerts and clinics. Popular theme concerts feature the deeply buried treasure of seldom heard tunes along with well-known and beloved favorites.

- **Coltrane with Clave**
- **Mostly Monk**
- **Salute to Billy Strayhorn**
- **American Royalty: The Music of Duke Ellington**
- **The Blues Note Era: Joe Henderson and Kenny Dorham**
- **The Music of Wayne Shorter**
- **Earth Day Jazz**