



Cool

THE JAY LEONHART TRIO

WITH TED ROSENTHAL AND JOE COHN

“Leonhart is the Fred Astaire of jazz — a craftsman so seamlessly smooth that casual observers often fail to grasp the immensity of his talent. As a bass player, Leonhart’s in the same exalted league as his mentor, teacher and musical hero, Ray Brown. As a vocalist, he remains, much like Astaire, significantly underappreciated.”

— Christopher Loudon, *JazzTimes*, November 2003

New York, NY – Sons of Sound proudly announces the November 16, 2004 release of *Cool*, a trio recording led by bassist/vocalist/songwriter **Jay Leonhart** and featuring **Ted Rosenthal** on piano and **Joe Cohn** on guitar.

Jay Leonhart is a national treasure, respected for his technique on the bass and loved for his original songs. As the quote in the headline suggests, he is the successor to Ray Brown in small group settings like *Cool*. In his review of Jay’s 2002 outing, *Galaxies And Planets*, Harvey Siders for *JazzTimes* wrote: “If you could somehow stuff Dave Frishberg, Mose Allison, Jon Hendricks and Eddie Jefferson into a blender, out would pour Jay Leonhart. He contains many of their best ingredients, yet like each of them he remains a jazz original.”

The *Cool* repertoire ranges from straight-ahead bebop to touching ballads (“I Loves You, Porgy” and “For Real”) to jazz waltzes (“Shall We Dance” and “Jitterbug Waltz”) to popular tunes (“If I Only Had A Brain” and “Nobody Else But Me”). The music can get a bit hotter than the title suggests: With technique to burn, the Trio executes high-speed lines on “Take Four,” “Bop Kick,” and “You And Me.” Each tune on *Cool* was arranged specifically for the trio, often reharmonizing the classics (Ellington’s “C Jam Blues”). Joe Cohn provides arrangements of three of his father’s compositions: “Take Four,” “Two Funky People,” and “You And Me.” In addition to “For Real,” Mr. Leonhart contributes “My Bluebird,” his lyrics set to the Tommy Flanagan composition “Beyond The Bluebird,” written in collaboration with the famed pianist. Jay wrote a much-loved tune about flying across county seated next to Leonard Bernstein. The popularity of this song, entitled “Me And Lenny,” led Mr. Leonhart to pay proper tribute to the composer by adding “Cool” as the title track.

Pianist Ted Rosenthal first achieved recognition by winning first prize in the second annual Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. He toured and recorded with the Gerry Mulligan Quartet and, after Mulligan's death, he was pianist/musical director of the Grammy nominated Gerry Mulligan All-Star Tribute Band, featuring Bob Brookmeyer, Lee Konitz, Randy Brecker and Nick Brignola. Since that time, he has also performed with Art Farmer, Phil Woods, Jon Faddis, Benny Golson, and James Moody.

Described in *JazzTimes* as "a brilliant musician... one of the really great ones," guitarist Joe Cohn is the talented son of famed tenor saxophonist Al Cohn, with whom Mr. Leonhart also crossed paths earlier in his career. Joe has worked with his father and Zoot Sims, and from 1982 to 1988 was with the Artie Shaw Orchestra. He has recorded with Buddy DeFranco, Dave McKenna, Al Grey, Frank Wess, and Harry Allen, among others.

Cool is Mr. Leonhart's third CD as a leader for Sons of Sound. The first, *Galaxies And Planets* (1999), features the artist singing his own compositions, representing one significant facet of his career as an entertainer. The second, *Rodgers & Leonhart* (2002) documents Mr. Leonhart's take on the American Songbook, developed in tribute to the centennial of the birth of composer Richard Rodgers. *Cool* showcases the bassist in perhaps his favorite setting, a straight-ahead, small group session with emphasis on improvisation and arrangement.

Mr. Leonhart is a frequent live performer, having just completed a week in New York City on a double bill with **Dave Frishberg** at *Birdland* in New York City, where he will return with the Trio in support of *Cool* in 2005. In addition to his work with the Trio, Mr. Leonhart often performs as a solo artist. The current version of his one-man show is entitled "The Bass Lesson."

Sons of Sound is an independent jazz label founded in 1997 to support musicians who are active in music education. Mr. Leonhart is a frequent guest in schools and leader of master classes. He is also an annual participant in *Swing 'N Jazz*, a three-day celebration of music education with workshops, concerts, and a fund-raising golf tournament for the benefit of The Commission Project, a music education nonprofit based in Rochester, NY.

For additional information see the label's website at <http://sonsofsound.com/>. For more about The Commission Project, see <http://tcp-music.org/> and <http://swingnjazz.org/>.

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