

Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet

Biography

The press has declared Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet (UVJQ): "as versatile and entertaining as any vocal group you will hear"... "electrifying"... "pure fun"... "sensational"... "exceptional"... "old school moving to new cool"... "vocalese at its best." Countless reviewers, broadcasters, and listeners worldwide have praised them as a standout for their creative originality and superb musicality. For more than two decades, UVJQ (*Ginny Carr, Robert McBride, Holly Shockey, Andre Enceneat*) backed by their jazz rhythm section (*Alan Blackman, piano; Max Murray, bass; Steve Herberman, guitar; Frank Russo, drums*) have built a loyal audience across five continents with their stylized arrangements of head-turning original songs and harmonically rich renditions of American Songbook classics. With their tight harmonies, engaging presentation and vocal sass, Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet (UVJQ) has put their creative signature on the group vocal style that mixes great fun with great art. They have been highly celebrated for extending the vocal jazz repertoire beyond standards and making their own songbook of originals the spotlight of their ear-popping arrangements.

UVJQ has been heralded by such legendary artists as saxophonist Richie Cole, singer/songwriter Bob Dorough, and singer/reed man Don Shelton (Singers Unlimited and The Hi-Lo's) as one of the most creative and captivating vocal jazz groups on the scene today. Richie Cole, who has been featured extensively with The Manhattan Transfer on their Grammy-winning albums, declared UVJQ "My new discovery, the whole package." He instantly recognized their audience appeal and the unique songwriting and versatile arranging talents of their leader, Ginny Carr. A fan of jazz vocal harmonies and a prolific songwriter himself, Cole invited Carr to arrange his own songs for UVJQ and work with him on a recording featuring their collective original songs. Their collaborative release "*Vocal Madness*" is a high-flying and highly original songbook performed by the power ensemble of Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet and their rhythm section, with guest Richie Cole on sax.

UVJQ's critically acclaimed albums have been featured in the top tiers of media:

- XM Sirius Satellite Radio (Real Jazz Channel) – extensive play
- Billboard Top 25 Jazz Albums Chart
- JazzWeek Top 50 Radio Chart (multiple consecutive weeks),
- Live featured interviews and performances on NPR's "*Weekend Edition*"
- Washington Post Editor's Picks
- Amazon's Best Sellers
- PRI's Jazz After Hours
- Jazz Works syndicated radio program
- Pandora Radio (Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet channel)
- Radio Jazz Copenhagen

... and thousands of featured broadcasts on FM, internet, and satellite radio worldwide

UVJQ has performed as a featured guest artist on multiple occasions with the renowned **Cote Ouest Big Band** at **Les Nuits du Jazz** and other high profile events in France. They will return to France in 2017-2018 for a multi-concert tour with the combined Cote Ouest Big Band and France's celebrated **Orchestre Nationale du Pays de la Loire**. They have also performed on the headliner stages at the **Ottawa International Jazz Festival**, **Detroit International Jazz Festival**, **Clearwater Jazz Holiday**, and **Festival Miami**, on the bill with jazz giants Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson, Sonny Rollins, Dr. John, and many others. They have performed as guest artists with symphony orchestras and big bands, including the **US Army Blues** jazz ensemble at the **US Capitol**. They have opened concerts for such jazz legends as the **Four Freshmen**, **Ahmad Jamal**, and the late **Charlie Byrd**, and been featured performers at hundreds of clubs, festivals, concert series and special events throughout the US. In 2014 UVJQ was a headliner performer and presented songwriting/arranging master classes at the iconic **DeMiero Jazz Festival** in Edmonds, Washington, then celebrating its 37th year. Founder Frank DeMiero, a national pioneer and promoter of vocal jazz performance and education, selected UVJQ's songs and arrangements for his **Sound Music Publications** catalog, establishing the "Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet Series" as a source of innovative performance material for vocal jazz ensembles. A growing number of college and professional groups are today performing and recording UVJQ's original compositions and arrangements, which continue to be in high demand with vocal artists and ensembles worldwide.

UVJQ is a featured artist in a video interview on **Behind The Mic**, an internationally popular site featuring interviews with the renowned innovators of vocal jazz. Ms. Carr was selected as a finalist for Washington's first annual **Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Competition** and her original songs, performed by UVJQ, have been featured on **Maryland Public Television**. UVJQ was also included on the 2008 Sony/BMG European compilation CD release, **"Ladies and Gentlemen: the Best of Vocal Jazz"**. The collection also included such vocal jazz legends as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Carmen McRae, Frank Sinatra, Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, Nat King Cole, The Manhattan Transfer, and the NY Voices.

UVJQ Past Performances (highlights):

- Touches de Jazz Festival 2016 (Beynes, France)
- Les Nuits du Jazz Festival (Nantes, France), with Cote Ouest Big Band, 2004 and 2012
- Coup de Coeur Special Event (Nantes, France) with Cote Ouest Big Band, 2016
- L'Adresse Jazz Club, 2016 (Nantes, France)
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday, 25th anniversary (Clearwater, FL)
- Detroit International Jazz Festival (Detroit, MI)
- Ottawa International Jazz Festival (Ottawa, CAN)
- DeMiero Jazz Fest (Edmonds, WA)
- The Jazz Corner (Hilton Head, SC)
- Festival Miami (Miami, FL)
- US Capitol with the US Army Blues (Washington, DC)
- Kiawah Island Arts Council Concert Series (Charleston, SC)

- Four Freshmen Society Convention, opening for FF (Reston, VA),
- Avalon Theater, featured musical guest with NPR cast (Easton, MD)
- Blues Alley (Washington, DC)
- Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club (Bethesda, MD)
- An die Musik (with Richie Cole) (Baltimore, MD)
- Carlyle Club (Alexandria, VA)
- 49 West (Annapolis, MD)
- Sanibel Big Arts Concert Series (Sanibel Island, FL)
- Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (Washington, DC)
- Smithsonian Jazz Concert Series (Washington, DC)
- McLean Orchestra, Pops Guest Artist (McLean, VA),
- Mary Washington Orchestra, Pops Guest Artist (Fredericksburg, VA)
- National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Jazz Series (Washington, DC)
- Library of Congress NAACP 100th Anniversary (Washington, DC)
- Smithsonian Jazz Café (Washington, DC)
- Richmond Jazz Society Concert (Richmond, VA)
- Blowing Rock Jazz Society Concert (Blowing Rock, NC)
- Takoma Park Jazz Festival 20th Anniversary (Takoma Park, MD)
- Chestertown Jazz Festival (Chestertown, MD)
- Greensburg Concert Series (Pittsburgh, PA)
- The Mainstay Concert Hall (Rock Hall, MD)
- Germano's Cabaret (Baltimore, MD)
- The Cabaret at Fredericksburg Square (Fredericksburg, VA)
- Gettysburg Concert Series (Gettysburg, PA)
- Williamsburg Library Concert Series (Williamsburg, VA)
- Bluemont Concert Series (Winchester, VA)
- Lake Anne Concert Series (Reston, VA)
- Reston Town Center Series (Reston, VA)
- Association of Anglican Musicians Conference (National Press Club, DC)
- Washington Bach Consort (National Museum for Women in the Arts, DC)
- William and Mary Inaugural Signature Weekend (Washington, DC)
- Shepherdstown University (Shepherdstown, WV), master class & concert
- Harford Community College (Bel Air, MD), master class & concert
- Tiffin University (Tiffin, OH), master class & concert
- Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA), master class & concert
- Randolph-Macon College (Ashland, VA), master class & concert
- Georgetown University (Washington, DC), master class & concert

For videos, photos, audio samples, and more information, visit
UptownVocalJazzQuartet.com