

Album Notes
from
“Don Thompson - Live in Powell River”
(In Support of the Don Thompson Scholarship Fund)

Don Thompson - Piano and Vibes
Ross Taggart - Soprano Sax, Tenor Sax and Piano
Ken Lister - Bass
Dave W. Robbins - Drums

Recorded Live on September 27, 2003 @ Brooks Hall, Powell River, B. C.

Recorded, Mixed and Mastered by Dwayne Harder, Riverside Recording.

Project Coordinators - Paul Cummings and Peter Taylor.

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Insert Photos by Patricia and Travis McDonough

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The inside two pages of the Album Notes was a letter from Canadian great, David Robbins, trombonist and phenomenal teacher, written to the concert promoters. Here it is in its entirety.

Don Thompson may have been all of twenty years old when he came to Vancouver to begin his illustrious career in music. I was very busy as trombonist, teacher and band leader, and had been aware for some time of Powell River's excellent school band program. The timing of his

arrival, for us in Vancouver and for him could not have been better. Within a few days some of us had heard Don's striking talent as a pianist, and over his first several weeks in town we were also impressed with his great skills on bass and on vibes. Of course Don, then as now, was always seeking to improve, and to find music making of a challenging nature. In time he went to the U. S. as a member of John Handy's fine jazz group, but not before giving us the real pleasure of hearing what a magnificent musician was in our midst. Each time I heard Don, during the years to come, he seemed to get better and better with a standard of excellence few professional musicians achieve. As many musicians and listeners will attest, Don was "the boss" whether playing piano, bass or vibraphone. His career soon found him playing with the big names and stars of the jazz world, here in Canada, in the United States and in Europe.

He has been a welcome guest artist in concerts in my bands, and is everyone's first choice musician where he resides in Toronto. His presence in any musical situation guarantees great music making. Don's style and great ability to swing have always had an exhilarating quality to my ears, and having heard something he's just played, I've wanted to cheer! With his skills, cheerful attitude, and consummate musicianship, Don is indeed one of Canada's preeminent musicians of any time, and as well, he is a fine role model for our younger generation. One's personal qualifications seldom get better than that in our profession.

It is a well deserved and fitting tribute to Don Thompson taking place tonight! Thank you, Don, for your great contributions to our musical life. I for one, among many, wish you many more years of continued success. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for being a true inspiration.

David Robbins
Gibsons, B. C.
27 September 2003