

Press Release:

Ludi Hinrichs bends over his piano, his shoulders hunch around his ears and his right hand reaches up to the highest keys while his left keeps a bluesy rhythm. He sticks his tongue into his cheek with concentration, and suddenly the blues morphs into a deep jazz riff with Baltic tones. He stands up, reaches for his trombone while the piano keeps the riff going, and starts to play the liquid notes from his brassy bone with the piano. So what does this guy do with a whole band?

“ChickenBonz came about out of a need- I was playing in clubs and schlepping a piano around and getting older, and not using my writing/arranging skills. In the past few years, I’ve met some remarkable musicians right here in Nevada County, so I called them up one day and we had a rehearsal, and it clicked,” says Ludi.

“What’s more, the group has a somewhat unusual instrumentation, and I like the challenge and joys of writing for oboe, bass clarinet, and two trombones as an ensemble, or using fiddle, sax, and trombone within a Moroccan groove”, he adds.

The diversity of the line up is complimented by the array of songs, timelines, and wide swath of emotional range.

“One of our pieces uses Joe Fajen’s tabla drums with the piano, drawing from the millennia old RAGA tradition of Northern India. Reaching into the Now, we have a contemporary arrangement of one of Randy’s (saxophonist) compositions that you swear you heard in the East Village last time you visited. And let us not forget the “Down Doggie Blues” a Chicago style horn- driven piece with a twist: it’s about a Yoga class, that was written by my wife, Karen as her term paper!” says Hinrichs. And there is her piece, “Tribute to the Nisenan Maidu”, a healing song, so sweet and necessary.”

It is really the combination of musicians performing Ludi’s music that make ChickenBonz so unique. (All six members sing!)

Murray Campbell comes from a small village in the hills of Scotland. He grew up in a musical family and came to regard variety and experimentation as natural, and essential. While in the Netherlands, he played with the Balkan band, Parne Gadje. The Romanian influence shines through his playing, whether on the **fiddle**, **oboe**, or **Cor d’ Anglais**.

Randy McKean hails from Iowa, via New York and San Francisco, and plays **sax**, **bass clarinet**, **clarinet**, as well as writes novels. His musical journeys have led him to the Kitchen, in New York, where he premiered with Anthony Braxton’s Tri-Centric Orchestra and to Taiwan with a quartet of alto saxophones. He also gigs with his group, Bristle, and the Beaucoup Chapeau café band.

Joe Fajen, on **trombone, tabla, riq, and frame drum**, has lived in Nevada County since 2003. His performances on the tabla have included accompanying Raga singer Pandit Binay Pathak of Mumbai, and Mathew Montfort of the group Ancient Future. He has played trombone in numerous contexts, including the salsa group, Sabroso.

Ludi Hinrichs, **bass and tenor trombones, piano, didjeridu, and vocals**, has been assimilating sounds since he was two. He works as a recording artist, educator, choir director, and arranger/composer as well as leading his own jazz groups. Recent collaborations include the performance duo, “Night Messengers” with Terry Riley, and music/poetry ventures with Beat poet Gary Snyder including a reading of his classic, “Mountains and Rivers Without End” at the Tokyo Summer Festival in 2002. His quintet has played for numerous Music in the Mountains festivals in the past, premiering new works.

Sacramento upright **bassist Tom Hannickel** brings his acoustic sound to the Chickenbonz. Ludi and Tom have developed quite a rapport over the last twenty three years of playing together. “Tom is a very aware and agile musician”, says Ludi. “He knows my moves and rhythms and the ESP happens! He delivers that driving support that is the mark of a true bassist.”

Kit Bailey, **drums and percussion**, is in demand these days, keeping time for eight or so groups, including Power of Twelve and Troubadour Trouble. He is just as comfortable in the pit of a large orchestra as well as with Ken Hardin’s or Bill Douglass’ trios. His range of percussion reaches from Congolese, Brazilian, Rock, Funk, and big band.

Quotes:

“Mr. Hinrichs is an astounding multi-instrumentalist, and a trombonist of exquisite taste”- Asahi Shinbum (newspaper) Tokyo

“The originality and unpredictability of their music makes for a very exciting show!” – Paul Emery, Nevada County event producer

“I loved ChickenBonz!” – Carol Herschleb, Artisans Festival, Nevada City

“Your energy is awesome!” –Joe Limov, Syrc1 Film Fest

“Ludi is a National Treasure, like certain artists you hear of in Japan. ” –John Michael Keating, Humanities Dept. head, Sierra College