

# Michael Karr

by Patrick Ross

Trumpeter Michael Karr is a close friend and occasionally we share tweets and phone calls to see how the other is doing. I spoke with Michael over the phone recently to talk with him about music from his live Jazz album entitled "Live with Michael Karr & Friends" on which he is joined by fellow New York Jazz journeymen, guitarist Jimmy Ponder, piano player Howard Alexander, drummer James Johnson Jr. III, percussionist Gene Richard Austin, and bassist Dave Pellow.

A very warm and soft-spoken individual, it is through his music that Michael Karr finds his best expression. Inspired by his father a multi-instrumental musician who took him everywhere as a child and exposing him to various musical settings, he began his voyage through music at the tender age of eleven on his first recording dates with the Pittsburg Youth Symphony as a soloist. His ability and talent recognized by Trombonist Randy Purcell earned him a scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University. After completing his education and receiving two Bachelors degrees by age 19, he began playing and touring nationally and in Europe.

Playing with a veritable who's who of musical groups and artist over the years, an "A" list of which would go beyond the scope of this article, suffice it to say he has earned the respect of many great and talented musicians over the course of his career. Equally talented on both piano and trumpet, he is also an arranger, lyricist, composer, engineer, and producer. Having been signed to various labels during his career and producing a top ten hit on Billboards R&B charts with Stanley Fields cover of "You, Me & He" on the 3C label. It is the women in his life that have most inspired him, as is the case with his latest musical offering "Live with Michael Karr & Friends" which features a warmly romantic track entitled "Nancy" on this wonderful Jazz classics album. A resident musician in many notable jazz venues throughout New York City, and almost every club east of the Rockies - from after hours clubs, stadiums, and two Presidential Inaugural Balls. He is the leader of Michael's Karrtet™, which features the musicianship of Ron Affif, Victor Jones, John Benitez, Randy Johnston, Alex Blake, and Essiet O. Essiet.

Jazz Improv magazine has him listed as "Noteworthy Performance". Michael Karr is the genuine, real deal, personally and musically. He is an exceptional musician and has a generous and laid back character for a New Yorker. After listening to his playing you can see why Michael Karr has become one of the most sought after musicians by artist and musicians alike to be included in their live date musical repertoires and recording projects over the years. Truly you will be taken in by his humbly quiet way, which is surprising and hard to come by in the music world. So if you haven't heard of him before now, I challenge and invite you to discover his musical talent.

<http://www.michaelkarr.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Michael-Karr/29741212167>

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/michael-karr/1b/3a9/2b4>

<http://www.myspace.com/michaeljkarrmusic>

<http://twitter.com/alakarr>

<http://www.reverbnation.com/alakarr>

<http://www.numubu.com/152817-profile-michael-karr.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/michaelkarr>

