

DIANE MONROE/TONY MICELI DUO

“The real challenge of playing in a duo setting is saying what you want to say with as many tools as you have. That enables you to get to the point of being able to orchestrate so that the duo sounds like a larger ensemble.” Diane Monroe

Diane Monroe and **Tony Miceli**, both native Philadelphians, have admired each other’s playing, since the mid 1980’s. Although Monroe performed mostly as a classical artist during that time, Miceli would invite her to jam sessions in his basement studio. From these sessions, they developed a very special musical bond. Their friendship developed at of their mutual musical interests.

Some years later, Miceli and Monroe began playing together in various trio, quartet, and quintet configurations, each in leading roles, depending upon the band. In 2009, Monroe and Miceli discussed the idea of forming a duo. At the time, they were both eager and reluctant, due to the “limited” range of each instrument, and vast differences in production of sound, and finding a good balance between the two instruments. It took much practice and experimentation to find their ‘sound.’ But find it they did in their upcoming debut CD, *Alone Together*.

By 2010, they had developed a blend with which they were happy and proud to use as a model by which to grow as a duo. They began with numerous live webcasts from Tony’s basement studio. These webcasts enabled them to develop a large local Philly online following; they received great feedback, which gave them more ideas for repertoire and other musical territories to explore. From these webcasts, they steadily built a fairly large catalogue of videos which may be found on YouTube.

Their upcoming CD, *Alone Together* is the culmination of many hours of working together and combining each of their musical experiences, some varied, some the same. They assembled a list of tunes that journeys through Monroe’s’ classical background (‘Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5’ by Heitor Villa Lobos), Miceli’s influences in jazz standards (‘East of the Sun’ by Brooks Bowman, ‘Alone Together’ by Arthur Schwartz), original compositions (‘Fleetin’ Blues’ by Monroe, ‘Vince Guaraldi’ by Miceli) and staples of the jazz repertoire (‘Spain’ by Chick Corea, ‘Icarus’ by Ralph Towner), and some surprises such as the ‘Theme from Star Trek’ by Alexander “Sandy” Mair Courage.

The duo has performed beyond Tony’s basement and away from the camera and traveled to New Paltz, NY to perform at the historic Mohonk House (2013 will mark their 4th visit), Longwood Gardens Jazz and Wine Series, Virginia Tech lecture/Concert, Chamber Music Series @ Yellow Springs Institute, Crossroads Music Series, SweetBytes Café, Lucy Moses School Kaufman Center **String** Fest jazz workshop, and Café Tea.

Upcoming engagements include their returning to Mohonk Mountain House in Sept of 2013. Another highlight for the duo is a residency at the Hiland Women’s Correctional Facility in Anchorage, AK, where they will provide a duo concert of music of the 50’s and 60’s, as well as arrange a standard jazz they will perform with the Hiland Orchestra.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist Diane Monroe bridges the traditions of classical composition and jazz improvisation. Monroe is a Pro Musicis Foundation Recital Sponsorship Award recipient and is a Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour roster artist. She performs her own solo, duo, trio, and quartet projects, and appears as a guest artist with classical & contemporary chamber ensembles, orchestras, and jazz ensembles throughout the United States.

As an improviser, she has toured for over a decade as first violinist of the Max Roach Double Quartet and the Uptown String Quartet. She performed extensively as a member of the String Trio of New York, and has performed on stage with renowned jazz artists such as Max Roach, Percy Heath, Steve Wilson, Bruce Barth, John Blake, Dave Grusin, Joe Lovano, Reggie Workman, Wycliff Gordon, Uri Caine, Jim Ridl, and Tom Lawton.

Her film credits include Wes Craven's "Music of the Heart", with Meryl Streep, and "Small Wonders," an Allan Miller documentary. Her performances, compositions, and arrangements have been heard on National Public Radio, "The Cosby Show," and "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

A master teacher and coach, Diane Monroe's educator resume includes Oberlin Conservatory, Michigan State University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, The Opus 118 Harlem School of Music, Fiddlefest in Verbier Festival, Mark O'Connor's Fiddle Camp, Musicopia, and The Quartet Program at the State University of New York's Fredonia Campus. She has coached participants of the Sphinx and Fischhoff competitions, and members of the Ying, Brentano, Shanghai, Anderson, and Elements string quartets.

Monroe has received many distinguished awards including the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Residency Award, the Alan and Wendy Pesky Residency Award from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and the Robert Trotter Chair Position at the University of Oregon at Eugene. Last year she received two Creative Connections/Composer grants in one season, and she has been awarded numerous Meet the Composer.

Diane Monroe studied at Oberlin Conservatory, and Philadelphia Musical Academy earning her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance. She continued her studies at Michigan State University and was awarded a degree in Performance from The Curtis Institute of Music. Her violin teachers were Ivan Galamian, Charles Castleman, David Cerone, Joyce Robbins, and Walter Verdehr.

Vibraphonist Tony Miceli, whose playing has been compared with the legendary Milt Jackson and Gary Burton, grew up in New Jersey, currently resides in Philadelphia, and has been working steadily on the jazz scene since 1980. As a group leader, sideman, and recording artist, he has performed with numerous top musicians including David Liebman, Jimmy Bruno, Ken Peplowski, John Blake, Diane Monroe, John Swana, Joe Magnarelli, Steve Slagle, Larry McKenna, and many others. In addition to his work with the group Monkadelphia, which he co-founded in 1990, Miceli is a member of the

PhilOrch Jazz Ensemble (a quartet featuring members of the Philadelphia Orchestra) and the Adam Unsworth Ensemble. His recordings include a compilation CD, Looking East with the Philly 5; On a Sweet Note, with Gerald Veasley and the Electric Mingus Project; Band Shapes with French pianist Olivier Hutman; Monkadelphia; Crepuscule (featuring Monkadelphia); Music From the Inside Out, a companion CD for a documentary showcasing the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In addition to his busy schedule of club dates, concert performances, and recordings, Miceli is a sought after master teacher. In addition to workshops in Amsterdam and other major cities, when at home base in Philadelphia, he conducts master classes at the renowned Curtis Institute of Music and gives private instruction in his home studio. He is a member of the Jazz Faculty at the University of the Arts and Temple University, and serves as a consultant to various music and arts organizations. Of his playing and musicianship, reviewers have praise: "Miceli's vibes playing is nothing short of phenomenal, as he moves effortlessly from fiery virtuoso runs to gentle, pianissimo, legato improvisations on the ballads." "Miceli's playing had a transcendent glow. He was no longer playing notes, but rather developing ideas that seemed to come from a source beyond himself." "His runs were so rapid and well executed that it was as if he had a couple of rogue virtual mallets helping him out." "Miceli's solos were done with agility and subtlety, stunning the audience with their virtuosity."

Miceli is a consummate versatile musician who is involved in diverse musical currents and projects. His CD Hippie Jazz with vocalist Meg Clifton recapitulated the rock music of the 1960s-70s in a jazz format. In a concert called "Mozart Reloaded" at the Kimmel Center, he played vibe improvisations behind singer Joanna Pascal's rendition of a Mozart opera aria. With crossover violinist, Diane Monroe, he is now working on a project using jazz, folk, and classical influences.

Internationally known on the web, Miceli provides on line instruction, information, and video interactive classes. He is proprietor of Miceli Music, LLC., incorporating the website: www.studymusiconline.com, which currently offers 3 sections: www.vibesworkshop.com, www.trumpet.studymusiconline.com and www.worlddrum.studymusiconline.com. These sites include online communities for professional players and students, with lessons, performances, and other features.