

LOCAL MUSIC RELEASES

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review by Marty Kasdan, Jr.

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University of Louisville Jazz Professor Mike Tracy has just released a new album, entitled *Gusting*, on Sea Breeze Jazz.. Featuring Cincinnati's Phil DeGreg on piano, expatriate Louisvillian John Goldsby on bass, and Louisvillians Craig Wagner on guitar and Jason Tiemann on drums, this is a worthy followup to last year's *Tracings*, also on Sea Breeze. Where *Tracings* was primarily Brazilian in its outlook, *Gusting* returns to mainstream postbop. All the songs except for the closing "Sweet and Lovely" are by Tracy or his bandmates. Having received this shortly before my deadline, I cannot give as detailed a review as I would like. Briefly, those of you already aware of Tracy's abilities will find him stretching out in fine fashion here. He shares ample solo space with his collaborators, who interact almost intuitively with one another. More next month, but for now, think "holiday present."

Speaking of Phil DeGreg, he has just released *Brasilia* (Strugglebaby 2405). Like Tracy's *Tracings*, this CD features music from Brazil, with added authenticity courtesy of his Brazilian bandmates. While DeGreg sticks mostly to acoustic piano, he does add color on various other keyboards from time to time. DeGreg's *Brasilia* follows closely on the heels of a warm and intimate album of duets with British guitarist Dave Cliff, entitled *TranZatlantic Interplay* (Strugglebaby 2402). Before WFPK-FM jettisoned jazz during accessible weekday hours, DeGreg and Cliff performed at the station's performance studio with bass and drums backing them. This CD of standards, ranging from Wes Montgomery's "Four on Six" to the Gershwin classic "How Long Has This Been Going On," was recorded in the living room of a friend of DeGreg's. If you can't find these locally, they are available at www.cdbaby.com, and worth seeking out.