

Press Kit

along came betty

original hard-bop jazz



www.alongcamebetty.com

Band Bio

Along Came Betty was formed in 1998 to celebrate the spirit of hard-bop, a seminal movement of 50s and 60s jazz music. The quintet has become much more than an homage to an important era of jazz history. Pianist and prolific composer Biff Smith's sophisticated yet highly accessible compositions blend elements of that era with modern sensibilities.

The rich sound of harmonized sax and trumpet backed by the classic piano, bass, and drums rhythm section result in fun, fresh, straight-ahead jazz.



Along Came Betty is: (top row, left to right)

Brian Stock, trumpet and flugelhorn;

Peter Lips, bass;

(bottom row)

Bill Spencer, piano;

Patrick Tregenza, drums;

Paul Tarantino, saxophone;

Along Came Betty opened the 1999, 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2017 Monterey Jazz Festivals and performed at the Big Sur Jazz Festival in 2000 and 2002. The band plays regularly around the Monterey area.

Testimonials

"The group sounds great... I hear minds at work accomplishing wonderful things that will take us well into the future."

- Bennie Golson

"This is one of the best jazz groups to ever come out of Monterey, and listening to them can be addictive."

- Mac McDonald, The Monterey Herald

"The Along Came Betty set (at the Big Sur Jazz Festival) came across like a series of hot flashes on top of splendidly orchestrated trad-bop... It's a top drawer band in the style of the Jazztet or the Jazz Messengers."

- Phil Elwood, The San Francisco Examiner



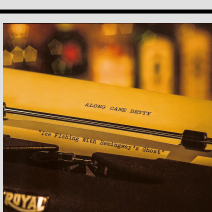
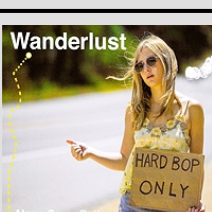
"The entire rhythm section is locked in. It's clear that they've been playing together for some time. Their interaction is intuitive and conversational. The ensembles are crisp..."

- Ray Hoffman, Jazz Improv Magazine

"Along Came Betty plays for the unique color of the classic Blue Note sound of the '50s and '60s, a time of understated sophistication, of painterly compositions done in broad melodic strokes and detailed with tight arrangements... Along Came Betty represents a focused look at one of the more consequential but less understood movements in mainstream jazz artfully executed by a very capable group of players."

- Rob Pratt, Metro Santa Cruz

Discography

	<p>Our First CD</p> <p><i>"Along Came Betty"</i></p>
	<p>Our second CD, released in the spring of 2003</p> <p><i>"Apple Brown Betty"</i></p>
	<p>Our third CD, released March 2007</p> <p><i>"Brad Mehldau's Monogrammed Guest Towels"</i></p>
	<p>Our fourth CD, released spring of 2012</p> <p><i>"The Secret Parts of Fortune"</i></p>
	<p>Our fifth CD, released fall of 2013</p> <p><i>"Smells Like Christmas"</i></p>
	<p>Our sixth CD, released fall of 2017</p> <p><i>"Ice Fishing with Hemingway's Ghost"</i></p>
	<p>Our latest CD, released fall of 2023</p> <p><i>"Wanderlust"</i></p>

Contact Info

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