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The Fred Hughes Trio Biographies

Fred Hughes – piano

For more than two decades Fred Hughes has performed, conducted and presented workshops across America and throughout Europe and Asia. By age 25, Fred had long been recognized as an up and coming conductor and world class jazz pianist for his work with the First Army Band, Fort Meade, Maryland and the Eighth Army Band in Seoul, Korea. In 1981, Fred formed the jazz group *Just Friends* and recorded six albums for Oasis/EMI Records. *Just Friends* performed for sold out houses and to live radio and television broadcasts throughout the Korean Peninsula. During the same period, Fred served as the rehearsal conductor and jazz coach for the MBC Pops Orchestra in Seoul, Korea. Fred's musical artistry has afforded him opportunities to perform as guest pianist and soloist on over thirty recordings and at such prestigious jazz festivals as the Newport, Montreux, Nice and North Sea Jazz Festivals. He has performed with the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, the Kennedy Center Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as with jazz greats Claudio Roditi, Al Cohn, Arturo Sandaval, Roy Hargrove, Bill Watrous, and Toots Thielemann. His conducting credits include the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Atlanta and Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestras, Washington and Lyric Opera Orchestras and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Currently, Fred is the musical director for Cook, Dixon and Young, formerly of the Three Mo' Tenors and is the author of *The Jazz Pianist: Left Hand Voicings and Chord Theory* published by Warner Brothers Publications.

Thomas Williams – bass

Thomas Williams' musical experience is vast and varied. He has appeared with jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Louie Bellson, Slide Hampton, and such jazz notables as Diane Schurr, Claudio Roditi, Arturo Sandoval, and James Moody.

He has performed at many of the world's most prestigious jazz festivals, including the Newport Jazz Festival and the Toronto Jazz Festival. His show experience includes performances with Bob Hope, Steve Allen, The Drifters, and Little Anthony and the Imperials. A former member of the prestigious Airmen of Note, Thomas was a featured soloist with the band and many of his compositions and arrangements were performed at major music and jazz festivals including the Detroit Montreux Cool Jazz festival.

Thomas' recording career spans over 20 years including 10 albums with the Airmen of Note, 2 CD's with the Fred Hughes Trio, and most recently, with famed Brazilian trumpeter Claudio Roditi in Rio de Janeiro.

Thomas Williams has enjoyed numerous successes with his writing including a first place award from the Mid-Atlantic Song Writing Contest and the use of his compositions for the nationally broadcasted television program, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous".

Thomas has conducted clinics and seminars for many of the nation's leading high schools, colleges and universities as well as for the 1994 and 1996 International Association of Jazz Educators conferences. He has participated in the Stanford Jazz Workshop for the past two years.

Frank Russo – drums

Raised in a New York City jazz family, Frank completed a distinguished career with the Navy Band where he performed in and led several dynamic ensembles. He is currently a busy freelance musician in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area and has a full schedule as a drum instructor/clinician.

Frank's performances include the Detroit Jazz Festival, Ottawa Jazz Festival, Stan Getz Jazz Festival, East Coast Jazz Festival and many other national venues. He has devoted extensive time to recording in the studio in a variety of musical settings as evidenced by his previous recordings released as leader, "All the Way" and "Snapshot".

Most recently Russo's creative drumming can be heard on Fred Hughes' Summit Records release "No Turning Back" and Frank's own trio recording "Quiet Now". He also is co-leader with saxophonist Pete BarenBregge for a brand new Summit recording "PF Flyer" and on upcoming releases from pianist Doug Bickel and guitarist Tom Lagana. Frank is proud to be performing on maple drums designed by Keith Larsen and on Bosphorus cymbals.