

# A JAZZ MOMENT IN TIME

SOLVANG USA

*It is a pleasure for me to reflect on the experience that the Solvang Jazz Festival created in the quaint and picturesque village of Solvang, California. It was a supreme honor to have been a part of this monumental musical event. The partnership between the Universal Guild for Jazz and Progressive Music and the City of Solvang provided an electric opportunity to hear world class Jazz. Both locals and tourists had the honor to hear music from the best of the best under the stars by a stellar line up of legendary, world renowned musicians. This festival was a unique opportunity to be a part of great Jazz, America's only indigenous musical art form. On behalf of Solvang I would like to extend my gratitude to the creative visionary, Stix Hooper, for bringing these sensational sounds to Solvang. The city never sounded better!*

**Linda C. Jackson, Former Mayor City of Solvang, California, USA**

*I want to thank Stix Hooper for putting this amazing project together. Freddie Hubbard was first a great father to me. He was also a great husband and friend to so many great people. Freddie was, and is, one of the greatest musicians of all times. Thanks to all of the wonderful musicians who helped make this album amazing. And to everyone else who had a hand in this fantastic project, I say thank you and God bless.*

**Duane F. Hubbard**

*"The Festival inspired me," Freddie said. "I hadn't played for six months. After Stix called I picked up my horn and started playing again. Anything Stix wants from me, anything...."*

*"It was the most beautiful concert I've ever heard him play," said Brigstebe Hubbard. Freddie's wife of 35 years, after tearfully referencing the point how much Freddie wanted to play again after his injury.*



**Freddie Hubbard**  
Flugelhorn



**Brian Bromberg**  
Bass



**Airtó Moreira**  
Percussion/Vocalese



**Roy McCurdy**  
Drums



**Hubert Laws**  
Flute/Piccolo



**Patrice Rushen**  
Piano/Keyboards



**Bob Sheppard**  
Saxophones

## Stix Hooper, Producer

**Gretchen Garth, Executive Producer**  
Trevor Hooper, COO, Stix Hooper Enterprises  
Brenda Vanderloof, Production Assistant  
Michèle Zuzalek, Graphic Design/Art Direction  
Debbie Bellman, Graphic Design Assistant  
Thanks go to everyone in the Solvang community who supported this Festival.

## RECORDING/MIXING/MASTERING

FRANZ PUSCH, Engineer, VR Sound  
Tyson Leonard, Recording Assistant  
Terry Albrecht, DNA Onsite Recording  
Gary Denton, Mixing, Staggy Street Studios  
Dan Hersch, Mastering, d2Mastering



## MIRACLE OF SOLVANG

For three years (2007-2009) the Solvang Jazz Festival brought together some of the brightest jazz improvisers and composers for performances and educational opportunities in this California wine-country town of artisans and craftspeople.

The festival was the brain-child of musician, composer, producer and entrepreneur Stix Hooper and the Universal Guild for Jazz and Progressive Music. Following the brilliant example of producer and impresario Norman Granz and his renowned Jazz at the Philharmonic concert tours, Stix arranged the Solvang festivals to feature all-star groups in a relaxed, jam-session type of setting. The musicians were encouraged to be creative and to enjoy each other's company and talents. They most certainly did that, and as you'll hear, the results were miraculous.

For the first festival in 2007, Stix invited trumpeter Freddie Hubbard. Surrounding Hubbard in this concert are a couple of his CTI Records label-mates: percussionist Airtó Moreira and flutist Hubert Laws, along with pianist/composer Patrice Rushen, bassist Brian Bromberg, saxophonist Bob Sheppard and drummer Roy McCurdy.

By 2007, Freddie Hubbard was winding down a 50-year career as THE Jazz trumpeter, one that fans and musicians across the world admired and learned from. Down Beat called him "the most powerful and prolific trumpeter in jazz." He'd appeared on over 300 recordings, and had worked with jazz stars like Wes Montgomery, Art Blakey, Sonny Rollins, Herbie Hancock, Quincy Jones and many more, as well as leading his own bands. He'd begun giving clinics, doing residencies and workshops for young aspiring musicians, and had been honored and presented with the National Endowment for the Arts "Jazz Masters" Award in 2006.

Freddie had survived a potentially career-ending injury to his lip in the 1990s. It changed the way he played (no more 30-chorus solos), but it didn't stop him. Dealing with a heart condition in the early years of the new century, he knew he had to adjust further, moving to more flugelhorn than trumpet, continuing to play "deeper and more soulfully," as he told an interviewer at the time.

This recording is a more thoughtful, less brash Freddie Hubbard at Solvang during his performance in 2007. Each note is carefully chosen to express his emotion. He shows genuine appreciation for his bandmates, for the sun in the vineyards and for the enthusiastic audience. Freddie's well-known (wicked) sense of humor was also on display along with his prodigious talent in this performance, which is one of his last appearances before his untimely death the following year.

We're grateful to Stix Hooper for saving this particular Solvang recording to add to our remembrance of Freddie Hubbard, with the great trumpeter surrounded by good friends, great music, and plenty of laughter and love.

**Robin Lloyd, Jazz Host KPLU 88.5**

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*"Many thanks to Freddie Hubbard for giving us this great earthly music before he left for the celestial skies." Stix Hooper*

## DISC ONE

1. INTRODUCTION 5:34
2. CARAVAN 11:16 - Duke Ellington
3. HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN 9:06  
Irving Berlin  
Bob Sheppard Special Arrangement
4. BORN TO LOVE 9:18 - Justo Almarío
5. SHORTY'S PORTION 8:59 - Patrice Rushen
6. IMPROVISATION #1 11:38 - Airtó Moreira

TOTAL TIME: 56:25

## DISC TWO

1. FREDDIE HUBBARD INTRO 1:38
2. FIRST LIGHT 15:34 - Freddie Hubbard
3. LITTLE SUNFLOWER 12:12 - Freddie Hubbard
4. MY SHIP 7:22 - Kurt Weill
5. CANTALOUPE ISLAND 14:33 - Herbie Hancock

TOTAL TIME: 51:32

**Freddie Hubbard, Flugelhorn**  
**Hubert Laws, Flute/Piccolo**  
**Bob Sheppard, Saxophones**  
**Patrice Rushen, Piano/Keyboards**  
**Brian Bromberg, Bass**  
**Airtó Moreira, Percussion/Vocalese**  
**Roy McCurdy, Drums**

**PRODUCED BY**  
**Stix Hooper**

**RECORDED LIVE**  
at the Solvang Jazz Festival  
Solvang, California  
September 29, 2007



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*This project showcased many of the greatest musicians, contributors and creators to that unique art form, JAZZ!*

*The recording and documentation is certainly an important historical moment in time, never to happen again!*

*I sincerely want to express my regrets that Freddie has left our planet and moved on to that celestial sphere to join some of the other great musicians who will play eternal music forever. His legacy of musical excellence, however, will definitely be on Mother Earth infinitely.*

*This recording will also highlight two of his outstanding compositions, First Light and Little Sunflower. Freddie's spirit and humor is pervasive throughout this record, joking, kibitzing and so forth.*

*By the way, it was somewhat of a challenge to maintain my role as producer of this concert performance and not participate as a musician. I especially reflected on some of the wonderful times that Airtó and I shared as percussionists together.*

*To all, please enjoy this concert performance, the music, the humor, and immerse yourself in the camaraderie of this momentous and special occasion.*

*It is artistic excellence at its best.*

**Stix Hooper, Producer**