Dan Brubeck is a renowned jazz drummer whose original style, distinctive solos, and mastery of odd time signatures and polyrhythms have earned the respect of critics worldwide. Dan’s previous CD “Lifetimes” with the Brubeck Brothers Quartet received exceptional critical acclaim. On this brilliantly realized new album “Celebrating the Music and Lyrics of Dave & Iola Brubeck,” Dan Brubeck introduces his parents’ remarkable and surprisingly little-known songbook. Dan has an extensive history of performing and recording alongside his famous pianist father Dave Brubeck and had long wanted to explore some of the songs and textual settings that his parents collaborated on over the years. The 2-CD set, which happens to be Dan’s recording debut as a leader, is being released by Blue Forest Records.

Vocalist Adam Thomas brings a soulful sweetness to the classics as well as to unexpected gems like “Since Love Had Its Way” and “Summer Song,” both created with Louis Armstrong in mind, the minor blues “Lord, Lord,” and “Strange Meadowlark,” a superlative piece that could easily become a standard.

The quartet doesn’t avoid the best-known numbers, offering memorable versions of the oft-interpreted “Blue Rondo a la Turk” and Paul Desmond’s enduring hit “Take Five.”

Track Listing

Disc 1:
1. In Your Own Sweet Way (6:13)  
Sultry lyrics, (medium swing) jazz classic.
2. Since Love Had Its Way (6:02)  
Uplifting lyrics, (up tempo) feel good song.
3. Summer Song (6:01)  
Louis Armstrong loved singing this beautiful (ballad).
4. It’s a Raggy Waltz (2:39)  
It’s a short (fast), lyrical tongue twister.
5. Autumn in Our Town (4:09)  
Poetry set to music; a gorgeous (love ballad).
A mournful minor blues with lyrics that capture the spirit and struggles of Martin Luther King Jr. (rubato to medium, post bop swing).
7. Ode to a Cowboy (4:10)  
The lyrics reflect a child’s cowboy fantasies; (medium swing) with a hint of country & western.
8. Blue Rondo a la Turk (6:04)  
An instrumental version of this 9/8 classic with swinging blues solos.

Disc 2:
1. Strange Meadowlark (7:04)  
An artistic (medium swing) somewhat overlooked vocal masterpiece.
2. The Desert and the Parched Land (6:35)  
A (ballad) adapted from the Mass: To Hope. Text from Isaiah 35.
3. For Iola (7:26)  
An instrumental (up waltz).
4. The Duke (4:29)  
A (medium swing) instrumental version of this jazz standard.
5. Weep No More (5:08)  
This (ballad) speaks of the attempt to return to normalcy after the misery of war.
6. Take Five (14:08)  
An excellent vehicle for an extended drum solo on this 5/4 instrumental classic.