

## **DARMON MEADER**

Recognized in both the jazz vocal and instrumental worlds, Darmon Meader is a highly respected vocalist, arranger and saxophonist. Darmon has achieved international recognition as the founder, musical director, chief arranger, composer, producer, saxophonist, and vocalist with New York Voices. As a member of New York Voices, he has released numerous recordings on the GRP, RCA/Victor, Concord and MCGJazz labels. Most recent NYV projects include their long awaited Christmas CD "Let It Snow" (Five Cent Records) and the high energy live collaborative CD "New York Voices, Live with the WDR Big Band" (Palmetto Records), both released in 2013. In addition to Darmon's vocal and sax performances, both recordings feature his exemplary vocal arrangements, and the Christmas project features Darmon's extensive orchestration skills. In the fall of 2007, New York Voices released their long-awaited MCGJazz release "A Day Like This," and in January of 2008, Darmon released his much anticipated debut solo CD, *And So Am I*. Darmon's solo project is a collection of jazz standards and original works, which reflects his varied interests and skills as a singer, saxophonist, writer and arranger. Although the entire project is steeped in the jazz tradition, the CD includes a wide variety of styles, orchestration approaches and concepts.

In 2015, Darmon joined forces with Amy London, Holli Ross and Dylan Pramuk on the critically acclaimed "Royal Bopsters Project" CD (Motéma), which is a nod to the vocalese tradition. In addition to the quartet's lush group sound, the recording features legendary vocalists Mark Murphy, Annie Ross, Jon Hendricks, Sheila Jordan and Bob Dorough, and includes a number of Darmon's arrangements. Allen Morrison (Downbeat) wrote: "Extraordinary...The Royal Bopsters Project vividly makes the case for a revival of the art of vocalese."

With New York Voices, Darmon has collaborated with a variety of artists including Ray Brown, Bernadette Peters, Don Sebesky, Nancy Wilson, Ann Hampton Callaway, Jim Hall, Paquito D'Rivera, Ivan Lins and the Count Basie Orchestra. He has toured internationally, performing at such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall, Montreux Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival and Blue Note Jazz Clubs (New York and Japan). In addition to Darmon's NYV touring and recording commitments, he is increasingly busy as a soloist, sideman, studio musician and composer.

In addition, Darmon is actively involved in music education, working as a clinician and guest artist at both the high school and university levels. Darmon is currently a member of the Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music Jazz Vocal department, and from 2009 to 2013, he was a member of the Manhattan School of Music jazz faculty. He has been the guest conductor for numerous All-State Jazz Ensembles including New York, California, Colorado, Arizona, Illinois and New Jersey, and has made artist-in-residence appearances at numerous schools, including Northwestern University, University of Louisville, American River College, Humber College and University of Georgia. Darmon has also taught at numerous domestic and international music workshops including the Inzigkoven Vocal Jazz Workshop in Germany, various IAJE Teacher's

Training Institutes, and the annual New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camps (US and Europe). Many of Darmon's choral, vocal jazz, and instrumental arrangements are available through the following publishers: Carl Fischer Music, Shawnee Press, Hal Leonard, Edition Ferrimontana, Alfred Music, Belwin Mills and UNC JazzPress.