

The Young Lizards are a Seattle jazz-collective super-group aimed at taking over the world with their accessible yet complex harmonic grooves. They have transformed the traditional jazz organ quartet by venturing into the rich, contemporary sounds of tunes such as Jaco Pastorius' *Three Views of a Secret* and compositions by John Coltrane, Joe Henderson and Woody Shaw and even originals. The creative progeny of Seattle based saxophonist, Chris Fagan, **The Young Lizards** bring the Hammond B3 organ and drums to the forefront as a driving, orchestral wave of sound on which the sax and guitar soloists ride.



Saxophonist Chris Fagan began his jazz mentorship with Bobby Bradford at Pomona College in Claremont, California, teaming up with heavyweight jazz talents such as Carl Burnett, Bob Maize, Billy Childs, and Charlie Parker drummer Dick Berk. Fagan also studied with modern post-bop vibes player Charlie Shoemake and noted avant-garde clarinetist John Carter, foreshadowing Fagan's pursuit of jazz on all sides of the musical spectrum. Fagan moved on to New York City in 1986 with an NEA Jazz Grant to study with sax giant, David Murray, occasionally sitting in at the Village Vanguard with the Murray's Quartet featuring John Hicks, Ray Drummond and Ed Blackwell. The following nine years in New York, he played with names as diverse as Jack McDuff, Dave Douglas, and alumni members of the Buddy Rich, Mel Lewis and Woody Herman big bands. In 1991, Fagan recorded his first CD *Lost Bohemia* with Bobby Bradford, Reggie Workman, and Andrew Cyrille. He then moved to Amsterdam to teach jazz saxophone at Sweelinck Conservatory, while making several tours of Europe.

After three more years back in New York, Fagan moved to Seattle in 1995, fronting his own jazz quartet and appearing as a sideman with Brian Nova, Jay Thomas, and rock legend Steve Miller. Fagan co-led a group with New York tenor player Tim Armacost, and went on to release *Signs of Life* under his own name, and *Neighbors* and *11:11* with the jazz collective Big Neighborhood on Origin Records. After many years of loose collaboration, "**OUR MODERN LIFESTYLE**" with **The Young Lizards** is Fagan's first official release with Pony Boy Records.

"Solid, solid, solid... repertoire and players create a steady stream of small twists and surprises that sustain interest throughout." – Bill Bennet, Jazz Times

"Fagan's playing has bite – sometimes he almost spits notes out – but it flows, too, and he swings, even when mixing it up..." – Kevin Whitehead, NPR, Pulse!



Guitarist Dave Peterson is the epitome of the unsung music talent. He is a humble soul who has performed with a mind boggling list of jazz legends including Dave Liebman, Dave Friesen, Benny Wallace, Gary Peacock, Chet Baker, Bud Shank, Eddie Harris, Buddy DeFranco, Big Joe Turner, Eddie Vinson, Julian Priester, Dave Holland, Gil Evans, Carla Bley, Anthony Braxton, Bob Brookmeyer, Sam Rivers and recently Rich Little, Don Rickles and the Pony Boy All-Star Big Band. Dave has been a faculty instructor at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. In addition to his solo release *After Image*, Peterson has appeared on many recorded collaborations with Seattle jazz stalwarts Chuck Deardorf, Richard Cole, going back to the 1980's classic spandex-jazz group Blue Skies.

"I like Dave... he sneaks up on you with his unassuming stance, and supportive demeanor, listening and absorbing his surroundings. Then when he sees an opening, he steps to the front of the stage with his toes curled around the edges of reality and tears a hole in the fabric of the musical conversation." – Greg Williamson, PBR



Ty Bailie, Hammond B3, has played with well-known names across the musical spectrum including Mike McCready of Pearl Jam's UFO tribute band Flight to Mars, members of The Presidents of the United States of America, Robbie Robertson of The Band, Steve Cropper of Booker T and the MGs, Peter Frampton, legendary grunge band Truly, Wanda Jackson (she dated Elvis), blues whiz kid Davy Knowles, Backdoor Slam, Duff McKagen from Guns 'n Roses, and some we can't even put into print. Clearly, Bailie's musical spectrum runs wide in a cohesive flow of good vibrations.

Bailie grew up on a hay farm in southeast Washington State. When he was 8 years old his parents bought an old upright piano from a neighboring wheat farmer and he rode in the back of their flatbed truck, playing it all the way home down the dusty dirt roads. At 16, life changed when Los Angeles jazz pianist Steve Haberman moved into a nearby town, taking Ty under his musical wing. Bailie moved to Seattle in 2000, studying for a time at Cornish College of the Arts, and at the school of hard gigs. He has given up tractors for Hammond organs, and participates in many tours, big and small.

"Versatile and limber, jazz-inflected and funky, straight-up rock 'n' roll... can play pretty much anything... he does the stuff music-nerd dreams are made of." – The Stranger



Drummer Greg Williamson has become a fixture to Seattle music scene, after touring as a member of the swinging big bands of Woody Herman, Glenn Miller and Harry James. He has appeared on over 30 CDs, including the recent *JazzIn It* by vocalist Dee Daniels, which charted #1 across Canada. He travelled several years with *Steve Allen and Tonight Show Live* with legendary pianist Paul Smith. He has performed with widely renowned vocalist Ernestine Anderson since 1991, acting in later years as her musical director. He has led his own groups ranging from his quartet to the *Pony Boy All-Star Big Band*, and led orchestras onto the stage for Don Rickles, Bob Newhart, and more. His recent collaborations include the organ-quartet **The Young Lizards**, bringing jazz sounds to the alt-club scene. He also composes and brings focus to large scale multi-media projects, including the award winning *Jazz Traditions: Conversations & Deconstructions*, and the *1909 AYP - Jazz Music For Seattle's World's Fair*.

Williamson's early experiences came from school music programs and jazz camps, mentoring with drummers Jeff Hamilton and Mel Lewis, writers Bill Holman and Bob Brookmeyer – and from playing with the legendary cats like Buddy Catlett, Ray Brown, Red Kelly, Bill Ramsay and Jay Thomas. In 1994 he founded Pony Boy Records, which has produced over 50 releases, the annual *Pony Boy Records Jazz Picnic*, and the weekly series *Jazz & Sushi*. PBR is also a partner at *Boxley's Jazz Club* in North Bend, Washington, which features live music nightly.

"High on the rhythmic and melodic slam-o-meter... with lushness and rich lustre." – The Rocket

"His enthusiasm is infectious... something very special." – Earshot Jazz

