



Crazy Love Jazz CD is a culmination of Ron Taylor's talent, experience and adventures. Not so subtle mixtures of Calypso, Samba R&B, and Bebop simultaneously create **Crazy** songs filled with **Love**; Ron calls it simply, **Jazz**. This CD is a musical translation of the cross-cultural compositions that filled Ron's childhood and life. Taylor says, "*My brothers in music helped make this possible.*"

Ron Taylor's life altering experience at Harlem's Apollo Theater as a child led him to the pawnshop to purchase his first trumpet. Since then he has played every genre of music from Calypso to Jazz and Funk to Classical. Renowned artists such as Byron Lee, Peter Tosh, and Natalie Cole considered him one of the most versatile trumpeters of the 80's. The following decades would also hold high honors and opportunities with Art Blakey, Lionel Hampton, Eartha Kitt, Marcus Miller, Stevie Wonder and TS Monk amongst others requesting Ron's brass on board. By 2008 Ron went on a world tour performing in Europe, South America and Africa with various bands. He brings all this and more to **Crazy Love Jazz**, his world debut CD. The versatility, energy and straight ingenuity Ron brings to this project provides a fresh yet nostalgic vibe. With Ron at the helm of these strong scores and an amazing array of musicians assisting, a smorgasbord of sounds is ready to be served. *Bon appetite!*

Professor Gary Motley is a highly recognized jazz pianists, conductor and educator with a smooth and sophisticated style. Noted as a "*Jazz Icon*" for his lead in The Swing Association, Motley was awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and the American Composers Forum to name a few. Gigs with Dave Brubeck, Clarke Terry, Jon Faddis, and Eddie Daniels, amongst many others is not just name dropping, but testament to Gary's talent. As an outstanding educator at Georgia State and presently Emory University, he continues to share his immense passion and aptitude for music. Reviews in Downbeat Magazine and on NPR's Piano Jazz explain why he was called in to help build the Ron Taylor Band. Whether conducting for Whoopi on Broadway or leading a jam session in Buckhead, Gary's vast experience and flair adds sweet and spicy flavor the **Crazy Love Jazz**. Chops confirmed.

"*High energy and intricate cymbal riffs thunderous rolls...*" "*Perfect, prolific percussionist...*" "*Underground jazz legend...*" These are just a few bites from extensive media reviews received by drummer **Kinah Boto** who brings his vigorous virtuoso to **Crazy Love Jazz**. Kinah has toured Europe and Asia extensively with artist such as Nnenna Freelon, Russell Gunn and Marcus Printup. He has also managed to rack up an extensive list of recording credits. With all that Kinah calls Atlanta home and the Ron Taylor Band one of the "*most dynamic groups*" Boto has performed with. Kinah's approach and technique are definitely tight. Just listen to the man...enough said.

Genius Georgia born trombonist, **Bob Lewis**, is no stranger to the big cats on the music scene. Upon providing a part of the star-studded list he has played with, you will get the drift. Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis JR., Nancy Wilson, Barry Manilow, Aretha Franklin, Johnny Mathis, Diane Shure, Martha Reeves, G Marvin Hamlisch, Michael Feinstein, Sarah Vaughn, Diane Carrol, Bob Hope, David Sanborn, Frank Gorshin, Ben Vereen, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash, Julie Budd, Kenny Rogers, Moody Blues, Linda Edder, Ray Block, Judy Collins, Natilie Cole, Four Aces, Sergio Mendes, Perry Como, Marilyn McCoo, Roy Clark, Peter Nero, Yanni, Frankie Valli, Louie Bellson, Marlene Ricci, O'Jays, Temptations Wayne Newton and on and on. O.M.G. ...maybe we should make a list of who he didn't play with. Seriously, this Grammy nominated maestro has graced stages all over the world and now blesses **Crazy Love Jazz** with a touch of trombone that just won't quit. Melodic, moving and masterful...you feel it in your soul.

Originally from New York, **Neal Starkey** is an American jazz bassist residing in the "ATL" with myriad musical accolades. Kenny Barron, Eddie Harris, Sonny Stitt, Duke Pearson, Al Cohn, Charlie Rouse, Barney Kessel, Tony Williams and Freddie Hubbard, amongst others, all made sure Neal joined them on stage or in the studio when it was time to get their groove on. This explains why Ron Taylor Band welcomed Neal's diverse and beautiful bass recitations on **Crazy Love Jazz**. The maestro set a high standard. But Neal is like that. Between performing with CBS Jazz All-Stars, recording with Herbie Hancock, teaching at Georgia State University, or regular appearances at the W. C. Handy Music Festival, we are glad he found time to provide the bottom for **Crazy Love Jazz**. Big up Bass Man!

Emrah Kotan is a seasoned percussionist who holds a Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from Georgia State University, where he presently lectures. He can be found regularly performing with International Groove Conspiracy, Inobe, Club Caribe, Ear Mail, Michael Johnson and Emrah Kotan and the Sultans. The past several years has been busy for the percussionist *extraordinaire* who's been giggin' at just about all the major international Jazz festivals including the Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival, Montreux, Saint-Denis, Montpellier and Antip Jazz Festival. He was even invited to grace the stage with the world-renowned Turkish pianist, Fazil Say and the Kudsi Erguner Jazz Quartet. Ron chose Mr. Kotan for just these reasons. **Crazy Love Jazz** required a supplement of sundry sounds, which Emrah delivered eloquently. Percussionist with precision he is.

Broderick Santiago is a native New Yorker. This sums up the drive, and electric energy of this fast paced percussionist. No wonder Broderick is the rhythmic foundation of the dynamic Río Negro. Though he has earned numerous high profile gigs as percussionist, band leader and/or music and dance educator, he was moved to be a part of the **Crazy Love Jazz** project. Santiago has shared the stage with several great musicians including Giovanni Hidalgo, Myra Casales, Patato Valdés, Jimmy Delgado, Jonathan Butler, and others. His passion for teaching people about the impact of African roots on Latin music is just another element of Broderick's colorful consciousness. *Lackawanna Blues* was recently lauded for Santiago's soundtrack on the HBO hit movie. *Percussions par excellence.*

Clifton Anderson recently released "Decade," an astounding honor to jazz in all her manifestations. Though based in New York, and very much in demand, Clifton was happy to support Ron's vision on the **Crazy Love Jazz** CD. A brilliant musician with years of world wide experience, Cliff blows with the wind. Whether executing a repertoire of bright and brilliant riffs or outstanding solos, this exceptional artist allows us to hear and feel the tender side of the trombone. Enjoy.

To book the band, schedule an interview or for more information please contact Tyler West at tyler@rontaylorband.com 404-941-4075. Listen to CD @ www.rontaylorband.com.