

Molly Greacen and The Sweet Life Brazilian Jazz Band

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Biography of Musicians

Molly Greacen (vocalist) lives in Boulder, Colorado and has been singing jazz professionally since 1999. Her band brings together some outstanding jazz musicians. The Sweet Life Brazilian Jazz Band has been playing together since 2003.

"Jazz is life - the vital energy of life. Brazilian music is beautiful poly-rhythmic global music. Brazil is a melting pot, open to so many musical influences, and songwriters there are poets. It is this beautiful groove thing, the most harmonious music I have found, and is always uplifting to the human spirit. There is no better medium for a singer than jazz, because you can interpret and create the music any way you want. The goal is reached when your soul touches those in the audience. It is about expressing freedom, beauty, energy, and sensuality."

Paul Cotugno (piano) has a master's degree in Jazz Studies from Indiana University (1990). He has served as Musical Director for Caribbean Cruise Lines, has toured with the Artie Shaw Orchestra, played in Japan and throughout the South Pacific. He teaches, composes music, and performs with top jazz musicians in the Denver area.

Ken Aikin (trumpet and flugelhorn) has played in Colorado since 1986. He plays for the Boulder Philharmonic, Boulder Brass, Colorado Ballet, Colorado Music Festival and the Longmont Symphony. He also plays with jazz and blues bands.

Andrew Bunin (bass) has played bass since age 15. He has play with various bands over the years including funk, soul, rhythm and blues, Latin, jazz, rock and country. He has performed with Bo Diddley, Lannie Garrett, and Denver Center Theater.

Zander Renault (sax and flute) graduated from the Jazz Department at CU Boulder in 1995, where he received numerous awards and scholarships for his music abilities. He currently plays in the Denver area.

Todd Reid (drummer) has a BA in Jazz Studies and MA in Percussion from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. In New York City he worked with Gerry Mulligan, Dr. Billy Taylor, Jim McNeely, Mike Richmond, Big Nick Nicholas, Jim Rotundi, Marlene VerPlanck and more. Since 1992, he has lived in Denver has been very active in the jazz scene, playing with local greats as well as big names from out of town including Eddie Daniels, Bobby Shew, Nnenna Freelon, Roseanna Vitro, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Jon Hendricks, Richie Cole, Javon Jackson, and Mose Allison.

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