

JazzNights (75)

IO5

The Iris Ornic Quintet

**Iris Ornic (b), Glenn Zaleski (p), Allan Mednard (d),
Jeremy Powell (ts), Jonathan Powell (tp, flg)**



Iris with one of her fans, an aspiring tenor player

Perhaps at the tender age of 75, finishing our 14th year, we should give you a few statistics. The 75 concerts have featured 38 different pianists, 40 different bassists, 35 drummers, 9 tenor saxophones, 6 altos, 1 soprano, 7 trumpets, 5 vocalists, 4 guitars, 3 vibraphones, and 1 organ! There have been no trombones, baritone saxophones, or violins. Bad, but we will fix that someday. Who is the most frequent artist? Frank Kimbrough, with 8 appearances.

All of this comes from you, and we thank and love you all.

Now a few words about the IO5:

Educated in Switzerland and England, Iris Ornic arrived in New York from her native Germany in 2003. Since then she has been all over the New York scene as leader of small groups and the director of the Monday night jam session at Kitano. Her groups have included such stars as Helen Sung, Michael Rodriguez, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Brandon Wright, and Jon Irabagon. She is an excellent composer and the evening is likely to feature some of her tunes as well

as some unusual covers – Michael Jackson? David Bowie? Bjork? Well, it works. I heard this quintet at the Zinc Bar in February, and they played Bowie's XXXXX to great effect. By the way, the sometimes quiet Zinc Bar was hopping that night, and the quintet fed off the enthusiasm – I think it was the best I have heard them.

Jeremy and Jonathan Powell are brothers and come to New York from South Florida. Both have studied with greats, played with greats, and received numerous fellowships and awards. I won't give you a full list, but I do want to note that Jeremy was named "best saxophonist" by something called Creative Loafing. Hard to beat that. In February at the Zinc Bar they worked beautifully together in the great tradition of this kind of classic jazz quintet.

"[Jonathan] Powell's crackling range and the electricity of his imagination reminded me of the first time I heard Lee Morgan and Clifford Brown." – Nat Hentoff, Jazz Times

"Jeremy Powell's saxophone playing is compelling..." – Gramophone

"This creative and exciting young tenor player has really got the goods!" – A. G. Zaire

Glenn Zaleski was a semi-finalist in the 2011 Monk Competition, and is now an established young pianist playing with Ravi Coltrane's groups among others, His first CD, "My Ideal," was called "sublime" by Downbeat.

Allan Mednard is a native New Yorker, educated at CCNY where he studied with Carl Allen. He frequently appears with Aaron Parks, Dayna Stephens and Jaleel Shaw.

CDs

"New Ground," 2009, IO, Daisuke Abe, Yoshiro Okazaki, Danny grissett, Tony Jefferson, with appearances by Rebecca Martin and Nunga Babu

"No Restrictions," 2012, IO, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Michael Rodriguez, Helen Sung, Marcus Gilmore