

THE STEVE SANDNER BAND

CATCH

38

featuring

Holly McGuire

1. **CATCH 38 4:43**
(Holly McGuire, Steve Sandner) Air-Lee Music - ASCAP
2. **ALL BLUES 7:53**
(Miles Davis) Warner-Tamerland Publishing Corp - BMI
3. **I LOVE BEING HERE WITH YOU 4:52**
(Peggy Lee, William Schluger) Denslow Music Inc - ASCAP
4. **A LIFE OF OUR OWN 5:18**
(Jeanette Kopala) Air-Lee Music - ASCAP
5. **RETURN TO PARADISE 5:37**
(Dimitri Tiomkine, Ned Washington) Universal MCA Music Publishing - ASCAP
6. **SOFTLY AS IN A MORNING SUNRISE 6:04**
(Oscar Hammerstein II, Sigmund Romberg) Warner Bros Music Corp - ASCAP
7. **GET HERE 6:16**
(Brenda Gordon Russell) Warner Bros Music Corp - ASCAP
8. **NEVER MAKE YOUR MOVE TOO SOON 3:38**
(Stix Hooper, Will Jennings) Irving Music Inc - BMI
9. **I REMEMBER CLIFFORD 6:19**
(Benny Golson) Time Step Music - ASCAP
10. **SUGAR 6:30**
(Stanley Turrentine) Stanshirl Music Inc - BMI
11. **AUTUMN IN NEW YORK* 4:39**
(Vernon Duke) BMG Songs Inc - ASCAP
12. **SEÑOR BLUES 5:18**
(Horace Silver) Escaroh Music Inc - ASCAP

Holly McGuire: vocals
Steve Sandner: piano & vocals
Chris Bickley: tenor sax, soprano sax & flute
Charles McFarlan: drums
Tom Lockwood: bass
Judy Roberts: piano*

Recorded Live to 2-track November 11, 1999 at
Studio Media, Evanston, Illinois
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Cadillac, Michigan, 1996. The gig would be an inaugural performance for the town's summer arts program. The audience, representing all ages and musical tastes from pure jazz to pure country, would presumably decide the fate of this proposed weekly jazz program. The band I had scheduled to appear that evening was led by Steve Sandner, a keyboard wizard I knew to blend jazz styles with elements of Latin, blues and funk. His refined approach was always fresh and energized, and his band leadership never failed to showcase his group's technical mastery. At my inquiry as to a female vocalist, he selected Chicago jazz diva Holly McGuire to front the band. Local curiosity was piqued, as there was much publicity and anticipation surrounding this August event.

The night of the performance turned out to be cold and rainy. We had to stop the music temporarily to seat all the patrons under the band-

shell for shelter. The foul weather did not dampen spirits, however. An audience of about 120 music lovers clapped for every solo and even some of the A-sections and bridges. Most didn't know a lot about this art form, but they knew they liked it and wanted more. Holly McGuire was a sensation with her upbeat style and charm. Sandner was an instant hit with his nimble fingers and easygoing voice. The event was a resounding success, and the weekly summer jazz concerts in Cadillac continue to thrive.



This band's dynamic chemistry includes Tom Lockwood, a gifted bass player and native of Cadillac who plays with a moody, introspective style; Charles McFarlan, a seasoned drummer who instinctively powers the group with rhythmic energy and control; and Chris Bickley, a high-spirited, heart-and-soul sax player.

Sandner's selections on this CD draw from an array of styles grounded in jazz and blues.



Highlights include an exquisite, haunting arrangement of "Autumn in New York" with guest artist Judy Roberts. "Softly As In a Morning Sunrise" is a high-energy romp with solid solo and vocals by Sandner, classic riff and fill by Bickley, and an extremely agile and melodic bass performance by Lockwood. "A Life Of Our Own," words and music by Chicago songwriter Jeanette Kopala, provides a beautifully expressive outlet for Holly and the band. The group's Latin-blues performance of Horace Silver's



"Señor Blues" solidifies the song's reputation as a classic. "Get Here," the heart and soul of this recording, is Holly's breathtaking interpretation of Brenda Russell's 1991 hit. Steve and Holly collaborated on writing "Catch 38" (originally performed by trumpeter Marcus Belgrave on Steve's CD, *Goin' To Chicago*). It jumps, catches you and takes you for a ride, and, as Holly's words proclaim, "it brings you back for more!"

CATCH the Steve Sandner Band with Holly McGuire!

- Tim Scully



Tim Scully is the owner of World Class Jazz Productions (WCJP) of Western Michigan. The WCJP network specializes in live jazz production and promotion, serving the area's music presenters, sponsors, live venues, working jazz musicians and patrons of the arts. You can email him at: timscully@netonecom.net



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