



BOBBY LYLE

PRESS KIT



Bobby Lyle

“One of the most versatile keyboardists on the music scene, Lyle is an established composer, bandleader, producer/arranger, musical director, music publisher, jazz educator, recording artist, and world class live performer. Audiences everywhere continue to be mesmerized by Lyle’s melodic compositions and dazzling piano technique.” —*Allaboutjazz.com*



QUOTES

Chick Corea, 22-Time Grammy Winner and Keyboard Virtuoso
“What a Blast it was playing a piano duet with Bobby Lyle!”

Chick Corea on ***The Way I Feel***:
“... Great grooves and great playing.”
I’ve never been a big fan of the organ, but Bobby Lyle kills it! He brings the jazz organ back to life!”

Gigi Brooks/Jazz Writer & Contributor to Jazziz Magazine on ***The Way I Feel***:
“... Lyle takes on the Hammond B-3 with fire and brimstone, grooving throughout each session with precise purpose and a uniqueness all his own.”

Chris Becker/Free-lance Writer & Jazz Author
“I was blown away by Lyle’s ability to play an incredible variety of piano styles, often within the context of a single tune.”

On ***The Way I Feel***:
“Jimmy Smith may arguably be responsible for making the Hammond organ a viable lead jazz instrument, but with the release of ***The Way I Feel*** (a tribute to Jimmy) Bobby Lyle and his co-conspirators carry that legacy and kick it into a funky future!”

Jazz Trumpeter Rick Braun
“Bobby is one of the most amazing musicians I know. His individuality and style on the piano sets him apart from everyone else! Bobby is a wonderful entertainer and his sense of humor is always present in everything he does. Love him and his music!”

BIOGRAPHY

Legendary pianist/organist Bobby Lyle was deemed a musical wonder when he released his first album, ***The Genie***, which exploded onto the Billboard charts and blew the minds of jazz enthusiasts everywhere. Since that debut, Lyle has kept a high standard for 30-plus years, and has successfully maintain a flourishing, always-evolving career. As a pianist, composer, recording artist (with product on Capitol Jazz, Atlantic Jazz, Three Keys, Heads Up, and now New Warrior Music), musical director, music publisher, and music educator, Bobby Lyle’s presence, whether on stage or on his recordings, has always been bigger than life. Lyle’s unrivaled high standard of excellence entitles him to a place on the throne alongside other musical royalty, making him a permanent fixture in the prodigious society of jazz. With Lyle’s forthcoming CD *Ivory Flow* (2021), he has released the single, “Living in the Flow,” which has already received massive of airplay and a ton of attention with a cast of iconic musicians, including Stanley Clarke, Gerald Albright, Kirk Whalum, and more!

As a youngster, Bobby Lyle was a prodigy whose gift became apparent when he was only 9 years old. He was a professional “paid” pianist at 16, performing regularly at local clubs in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. After high school, Lyle studied advanced piano at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. He left after two years to become a full-time touring musician on the national jazz circuit with ex-Ramsey Lewis sidemen who formed their own band called Young-Holt Unlimited with whom he also recorded on Atlantic-Cotillion. This ultimately inspired him to move from Minneapolis to Los Angeles to pursue a music career in earnest. Once there, after a brief tour with Sly and the Family Stone, he met Jazz Crusader co-founder Wayne Henderson who became his mentor; and, after securing his first recording deal (at Capitol Jazz), Henderson became his record producer. Subsequent deals with Atlantic Jazz, Three Keys, and Heads Up allowed Lyle to amass a prolific discography of jazz music—all of it self-produced. His musical “Lyle” journey has taken him all over the world to various festivals and venues. He has served as musical director for such notable artists: Al Jarreau, Anita Baker, Bette Midler (with whom he scored an **Emmy nomination** for her **HBO special Diva Las Vegas**), and Phyliss Hyman. His 1990 project ***The Journey*** made it to #1 on the Billboard jazz chart, and he is still the only artist who’s record (***Straight and Smooth*** on the Three Keys label, 2005) appeared on both the *Billboard* Magazine smooth jazz, and the Billboard traditional jazz charts at the same time.

Bobby travels with his own band, teaches and mentor jazz piano students, both privately and in seminars and clinics. He “adopted” Walker Elementary School by establishing a program, where needy, but exceptional students could receive band instruments to use for the school year. Bobby has become an integral part of the Houston, Texas, music scene as a performer and educator; and was awarded a **“Bobby Lyle Day” plaque by mayor Anise Parker** in 2012. The following year, he released his first Hammond B-3 organ project, ***The Way I Feel***—a tribute to Jimmy Smith and Wes Montgomery. The CD was released on his label New Warrior Music. In 2014, Lyle, in association with smooth jazz radio personality Guy Michaels, launched Houston’s first ever TV Jazz Show called ***The J-Spot***. Taped in front of a live audience, The *J-Spot* is a prominent showcase for the wealth of musical talent in the Houston area, and features recording artists as well. Bobby is the host and performers occasionally as a guest performer. Bobby Lyle continues to perform with his piano bands and organ trio, impressing jazz lovers around the world!



BOBBY LYLE - HIS MUSIC AND ACCLAIMED RELEASES

THE GENIE: Groundbreaking first project on Capitol Records. The title cut (“The Genie”), “Pisces” and “Night Breeze” were tunes that helped define an emerging category known as jazz fusion, characterized by distinct melodies over funky drum grooves.



IVORY DREAMS: Lyle’s first offering on the Atlantic Jazz label continued his pianistic stylings in a lush and layered musical setting. The title cut (Ivory Dreams), “Been So Long”—an instrumental cover of the Anita Baker classic, and “Tropical” were three featured cuts that all received major airplay. It also contains a solo piano version of the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn classic “Lush Life.”



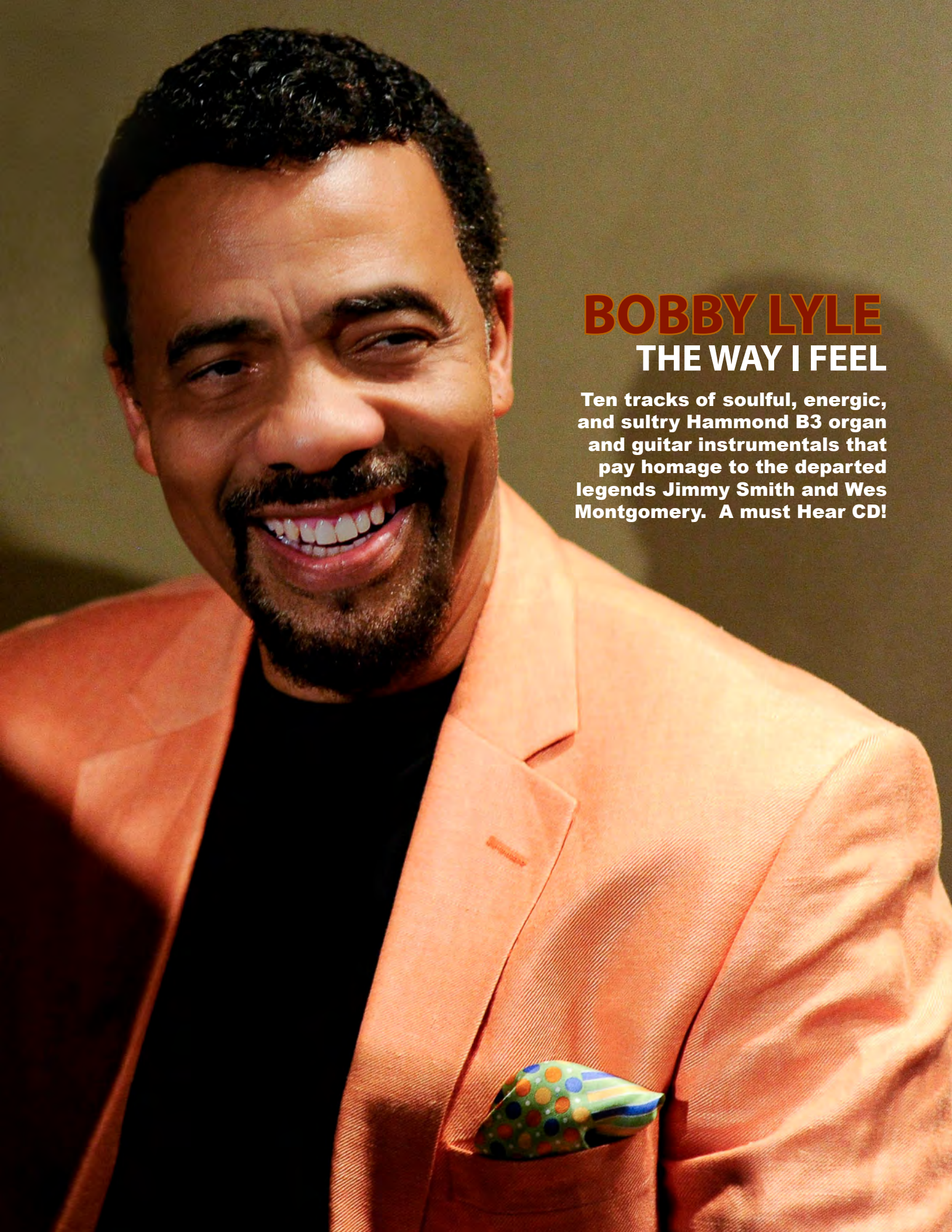
THE JOURNEY: This project was done following a tragic event in Lyle’s life - the passing of his first wife Delores. Lyle poured all his emotions into these songs, and the result was a well-acclaimed CD that made it to #1 on the Billboard contemporary jazz chart. “Reach Out For Love” is a fervent vocal by Phillip Ingram whose lyrics still resonate today. “Viva Mandela” celebrated the release of the iconic South African leader from his 27-year incarceration and his rise to the presidency of his beleaguered country. “Fly Away Spirit” is a solo piano tribute to his late wife Delores, while “Stuttin,” “Sassy,” and “Swing Jack” bring the mid-tempo funky fire.



JOYFUL: This project on the Three Keys label features tasty collaborations with Peter White (“Rainwalkin”), Norman Brown (“Give Me Your Heart”), Howard Hewitt (“Caught Up”), and tight horn lines by Gerald Albright and Rick Braun on the funky track “Spankin’”. A unique cover of Sade’s “Sweetest Taboo” is also featured. The CD, on the Three Keys label, reached #5 on the Billboard smooth jazz chart.



For a complete discography, visit bobbylekeyboards.com.



BOBBY LYLE THE WAY I FEEL

Ten tracks of soulful, energetic, and sultry Hammond B3 organ and guitar instrumentals that pay homage to the departed legends Jimmy Smith and Wes Montgomery. A must Hear CD!

With Bobby Lyle's latest release, *The Way I Feel*, we experience his depth as a musician and arranger. He wields his magic as he seduces us with his tribute to Jimmy Smith and Wes Montgomery. Each track is smoking hot with intricate arrangements, seductive motifs, mind-dizzying melodies, and memorable selections, which showcase the best of Jimmy and Wes. This latest album represents a first in that it is exclusively a Hammond B-3 organ project. It still however contains three elements that are consistent in all of Lyle's projects: great songwriting (7 originals in this one), arranging, and dazzling keyboard execution. I'm sure all lovers of instrumental jazz will want to make *The Way I Feel* a part of their collection.



Here's an example of what jazz journalists have to say about Bobby Lyle's *The Way I Feel*!

April 28, 2014 / allaboutjazz.com / By Gigi Brooks

For over forty years Bobby Lyle has dazzled the world with his creative and innovative sounds on piano, with recordings on five labels and reaching number one on the Billboard jazz chart, with his 1990 release, *The Journey*, on Atlantic Jazz. As an accomplished pianist, keyboardist, composer and musical director for greats such as Bette Midler, Al Jarreau and Anita Baker, he has managed to sustain himself as one of jazz' leading artists.

The Way I Feel, recorded on his label New Warrior Music, is his latest and most brilliant accomplishment, which features him for the first time on the Hammond B-3 organ and incorporating his signature sound on acoustic piano and synthesizer. The project was inspired by his unforgettable friendship with the legendary Hammond B-3 organist, Jimmy Smith and the inspiration of legendary guitarist, Wes Montgomery.

Here Lyle is joined by an accomplished array of personnel with guitarist, Brian Nase; drummers Patrick Williams, Mark Simmons and Mark Prince; bassist, Keith Vivens; and Milton Comeaux on percussion.

The first track "The Cat" pops off with new twist of the original recording by Jimmy Smith. The timing and chord arrangements Bobby Lyle creates on the Hammond B-3 brings a fresh, nostalgic groove to this Jimmy Smith classic.

Enter guitarist Brennan Nase as he almost mirrors the accents of Wes Montgomery's fluid sound and presence on "Feelin' Wes", this "rubber meets the road" piece is fueled with Bobby's constructive movements making the Hammond B-3 his own. The sound is a remembrance of the collaborative "Dynamic Duo" of the 1960's.

From then on the music dances through intricate styles of jazz paying tribute to the much celebrated sound of New Orleans second line, a touch of gospel, the standard, "Baby It's Cold Outside" and more.

Tracks: The Cat; Feelin' Wes; Baby It's Cold Outside; Diddly Boom Boom (French Quarter Strut); B's Bop; Horizon; The Way I Feel; On The Fly; Hard Workin' Man; Walk On The Wild Side.

Skipping tracks will not be necessary on this uplifting, hip gyrating masterpiece. This recording will soon fall into the category of recorded classics of jazz. (<http://jazztimes.com/community/articles/128119-the-way-i-feel-bobby-lyle>)

A photograph of Bobby Lyle, a man with dark curly hair and a goatee, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the right, with his hands on a piano keyboard. The background is dark and out of focus.

BOBBY LYLE

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To view Bobby Lyle's videos or listen to mp3s, follow the link below.

<http://firsttakepr.com/clients/press-kit-files/bobby-lyle-press-kit-files/>

VIDEO LINKS

BOBBY LYLE "JUBILEE" FEAT. MINDI ABAIR ON SAX

BOBBY LYLE SWEETEST TABOO LIVE ON TV

KTSU 90.9 RADIO RECORDING STUDIO WITH BOBBY

BOBBY LYLE AND RONNIE LAWS

AUDIO FILES

1. B's Bop
2. Blues for Dexter
3. Cherokee
4. Diddy Boom Boom
5. Giant Steps
6. Here's That Rainy Day
7. On the Fly
8. The Cat
9. The Way I Feel
- (Piano Solo Pieces)**
10. Blues
11. Body & Soul

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