



June 17, 2010

For Immediate Release

**UNIFIED JAZZ ENSEMBLE RELEASES *CRADLE SONG* FEATURING ALL
ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS**

The Unified Jazz Ensemble (UJE) is proud to release *Cradle Song*, the Ensemble's eighth recording. Following nearly 20 years of performance experience, this album represents the unique sound and playing style of four diverse and seasoned jazz musicians.

Mike Noonan, UJE's founding leader and award-winning performer, plays vibraphone and composed all tracks on the album. Tim Stanley, a Grammy award-winning trumpet and flugelhorn player, joins the group for the first time in this recording. Dominic Smith, one of the most in-demand drummers in the D.C./Baltimore area, grounds the album along with John Pineda, UJE's set-the-groove bassist for more than 15 years. While the styles vary from the Latin-influenced "Broken Tango, Broken Heart" to the Slavic sound of "Folk Song # 8," all tracks feature solid ensemble playing, stellar solos, and melodic tunes that are likely to leave listeners humming hours later.

The UJE's repertoire changes and grows with the input of the band members, and the music on this recording came about through years of ensemble direction, as well as individual input.

"We've been working towards this album, really, for 20 years. The compositions have been maturing since the group formed, and just within the past two years we've found a solid direction and groove with the band, honed through frequent opportunities to play together," said Noonan. "We knew it was time to capture what we're doing, and share it with the broadest audience possible."

Cradle Song was recorded in Annapolis, MD on September 21, 2009 by Medford Canby, Front and Center Live Recording, frontandcenter@verizon.net. The recording was mixed by Medford and the UJE, mastered by Bill Wolf, and produced by the UJE. Mike Noonan plays and endorses mallets by Innovative Percussion, Nashville, TN. CD Design and "Pre-Aviary Cradle" photo by Kari Watts. UJE photos by Larry Melton.

The Unified Jazz Ensemble thanks family, friends, fans and supporters, and particularly Brian and Sarah Cahalan and the staff at 49 West in Annapolis, Maryland where the group performs every Tuesday evening.

Cradle Song is available for purchase or download at www.unifiedjazz.com.

Unified Jazz Ensemble

The Unified Jazz Ensemble (UJE), based in Annapolis, Maryland, is dedicated to bringing the best of jazz to audiences of all ages. The group was founded in 1992, and has performed across the United States and internationally, engaging listeners in innovative performances of jazz standards and original compositions. The UJE's eighth recording, *Cradle Song*, was released in June 2010 and features all original compositions. School and community residencies by the Unified Jazz Ensemble in 2010-11 are organized in partnership with Class Acts Arts have been made possible with support from Chamber Music America's Residency Program, funded through the generosity of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Ensemble members are: Mike Noonan, John Pineda, Dominic Smith, and Tim Stanley. Learn more at www.unifiedjazz.com.

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