

New Releases September 2012 – Shipping September 5

## SCCD 33102 Skip Wilkins Quartet "Father And Son"



Renowned educator, composer/pianist Skip Wilkins teamed up with his son Daniel, a new talent on tenor saxophone to present "Father & Son" album with Skip's working trio: Scott Lee on bass and Jeff Hirshfield on drums. Tenor saxophonist, Daniel Wilkins is young artist on the New York jazz scene. Entering his Senior Year at the Manhattan School of Music, Wilkins has been studying with alto saxophonist Steve Wilson, tenor saxophonist Rich Perry, drummer John Riley, pianists Phil Markowitz and Garry Dial. He plays lead tenor in the Grammy-nominated MSM Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra. Skip and Daniel toured in Europe and perform regularly together in New York area.

SKIP WILKINS *piano*  
DANNY WILKINS *tenor saxophone*  
SCOTT LEE *bass*  
JEFF HIRSHFIELD *drums*  
*Recorded January 2011*

- 1 NOT REALLY 7:44
  - 2 A HOUSE IN A VILLAGE (GREEN) 7:25
  - 3 KINDNESS 5:35
  - 4 BUTTERFLY OF STEEL 5:43
  - 5 MESSAGE TO MARUSKA 4:19
  - 6 ELEGANT LADY 7:37
  - 7 RECKLESS, NOT FECKLESS 5:45
  - 8 AND NOW... 6:09
  - 9 WITNESS AND MUSE 5:51
- Total Playing Time 56:27*

Composed by Skip Wilkins

**Place your orders by e-mail: [nils.winther@steeplechase.dk](mailto:nils.winther@steeplechase.dk)**

## Father & Son

It has been my special pleasure to work with extraordinary saxophonists everywhere I have lived, but for some music, I had to grow my own.

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My son Daniel started on saxophone as a young boy, alto first, as young children will, and shortly after, the larger tenor. He played some drums before that, always sang, and played piano later, but even in those first days with the horn, the saxophone simply looked right when he held it – and played it. He was a saxophone player the moment he had the horn in his hands. I knew then. But I can't say that I had already imagined the result you are holding in your hands.

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Earlier in the history of jazz, the young and talented went directly from high school to the bandstand. In short order they were performing, touring and recording with jazz masters. Today, the access point is typically one of the great institutions of jazz study, found throughout the United States, and increasingly, all over the world.

Finishing school still happens on the bandstand. (Some things haven't changed!) But when they are young, musicians today are much more likely to learn from mentors in these institutions, and to mix with and learn from the peer group that will form the next generation of musicians.

In the fall of 2009, my son Daniel enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music (MSM), uptown, not far from the Apollo Theatre. By the late spring of 2010, Dan and I were touring Europe together – performances in Berlin, Prague and other cities. *It can happen fast!* Surely we had played together many hundreds of times before this tour, but that first year in Manhattan proved seminal for Daniel.

After our first European tour together, Dan and I started playing 100 blocks south of MSM in one of Manhattan's finishing schools, the studio of the great New York bassist Scott Lee. Together with drummer Jeff Hirshfield, we met to play through a few new pieces I had brewing. I had already been performing and recording with Scott and Jeff in a trio format, so it was an opportunity for another direction. Jeff affectionately dubbed the new experience, "Wilkins in Stereo."

After a summer interval, we resumed the sessions, as I gradually added new pieces. My projects always begin this way. I write a few new things and soon a recording is developing. And what a pleasure it has been to develop this project together! The connection with the trio was already rich. And better still to share this special rhythm section with my own son.

Skip Wilkins, July 2012, Prague