



JAZZ VOCALIST & CLINICIAN

(208) 631-8284 or (208) 344-2923

[www.jeffbakerjazz.com](http://www.jeffbakerjazz.com)

### AWARDS

- 2005 *First Ballot Nominee for Grammy Award for "Monologue" in three categories including Best Vocal Jazz Album*
- 2001 Winner *Willamette University Performing Arts Award*
- 1999-2000 *Salem Master Chorus Scholarship*
- 2000 & 2001 *Willamette University Scholarship in Performing Arts*
- 1996 Winner, '97 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up *Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival" OUTSTANDING VOCALIST*
- 1996 & 1997 Winner *"Boise State University Vocal Jazz Festival" OUTSTANDING VOCALIST*
- 1997 Winner *OUTSTANDING MALE VOCALIST (Borah High School)*
- 1996 Winner *"Albertson College Jazz Festival" OUTSTANDING VOCALIST*

### PERFORMANCE CREDITS

- 2006 *Crossroads Shopping Center, Market Stage, Bellevue, WA*  
*"Jazz Extravaganza", Meydenbauer Center Theater, Bellevue, WA*  
*"Jeff Baker Jazz Live" Idaho Falls Jazz Society, Idaho Falls, ID*  
*N.I.D.A. NW Blending Conference, Seattle, WA*  
*'01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06 Featured Artist ["Jazz in the Canyon" Twin Falls, ID](#)*  
*"Jazz Picnic", Fisher Creek, Sawtooth Mountains, ID*  
*"Jazz in the Grove", Bay Springs, MS*  
*Performance of Haydn's Mass in Time of War, Carnegie Hall, NYC*  
*Sacred Jazz", St. Paul's, Salem, OR*  
*Jeff Baker Jazz Live, Simplot Performing Arts Center*
- 2005 *[Jimmy Mak's Jazz Club, Portland, OR](#)*  
*Music Millennium, Portland, OR*  
*Night of Lumiere Concert, Sun Valley, ID*  
*Jeff Baker Jazz Holiday Concert*  
*["Monologue" Album Release Concert Tour](#)*  
*College of Southern Idaho (Twin Falls, ID)*  
*Esther Simplot Performing Arts Center (Boise, ID)*  
*"Brick Oven Bistro" (Boise, ID)*  
*"Eagle Fun Days" Kick off Concert*  
*Jeff Baker Quintet @ Bacquet's French Evening with Jazz*  
*Duchin Room, Sun Valley, ID*  
*Jazz at Bown Crossing, Boise, ID*  
*"Jazz @Sundown", WCLK, Atlanta, GA*  
*Benefit for New Orleans Jazz Musicians, Idaho Jazz Society*  
*"Kids Cupboard" Benefit Concert*  
*[Boise State University Jazz Festival, Performer and adjudicator](#)*

2004	Salem Jazz Festival, Clinician
2004	<a href="#"><u>The Triple Door, Seattle, WA</u></a>
2004	<a href="#"><u>Catalina's Bar and Grill, Hollywood, CA</u></a>
2004	<a href="#"><u>Green Dolphin Restaurant, Cape Town, South Africa</u></a>
2003-2004	<a href="#"><u>Jeff Baker Quintet-Live, McCall, ID</u></a>
2003	"Gene Harris, Endowment Night"
2002-2003	"Jazz at the Bridge" Boise, ID
2002-May 2004	"Manhattan Grill" Boise, ID
2001-2002	"Jazz Night's @ Peter Schott's" Boise, ID
2002 <a href="#"><u>Featured Artist</u></a>	<b>**Gene Harris Jazz Festival**</b>
2001	OMEA District VII Vocal Jazz Festival/Clinician, Adjudicator
2000, '01 <a href="#"><u>Headliner</u></a>	"Boise River Festival" (Boise, ID)
1999, '00, '01, '02	<a href="#"><u>Opening Vocalist for "Gene Harris Block Party"</u></a>
1999 <a href="#"><u>Featured Artist</u></a>	"Jazz in the City", "First Thursday's" Noodles (Boise, ID)

**RECORDING CREDITS**

2004	"MONOLOGUE" OA2 Label, released 1-25-05
2002-2003	"BAKER SINGS CHET" OA2 Label, released 10-21-03
2001	"BIRTH OF THE NEWS" Christmas Album
2000	"STRAIGHT FORWARD" by One Way To Where
1998, '99, '00, '01	Willamette Singers

**TRAINING/EDUCATION**

*Bachelor of Music Education, Willamette University. 2001*



## **Biographical Sketch**

Jeff Baker began his career in front of a crowd of ten thousand, as one of the youngest vocalists to ever win the **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival** "Vocal Solo Competition". Only 16 years old at the time, his first truly "big" performance was backed by the **Lionel Hampton Trio**, not a bad way to start!

In 1997, Baker accepted a scholarship from Willamette University to sing with the Internationally Renowned vocal jazz ensemble, **The Willamette Singers**, a group which has performed at international conventions of the **American Choral Directors Association**, and the **International Association of Jazz Educators**. While attending Willamette University, Baker received multiple awards and honors for his unbelievable skill as a jazz vocalist.

During the summer of 1998, Baker formed the jazz Quintet "One Way to Where." Comprised of talented, young jazz musicians, OWTW quickly became one of the most popular jazz groups in the Northwest. In 2000, OWTW recorded its first album, "Straightforward". The album received rave reviews, and cemented Baker as a force to be reckoned with on the jazz scene. .

Since graduating from Willamette, Baker has been recognized as one of the up and coming young vocal talents in the nation! In March of 2002, Baker was among the talent showcased at the **Gene Harris Jazz Festival "Club Night"**. Other artists booked for the festival included, Kevin Eubanks, Eric Marienthal, Jeff Hamilton, Curtis Stigers, and The New York Voices. Beginning in 1999, Baker was the only vocalist to open for the Annual **Gene Harris Block Party**, a downtown jazz concert honoring the late jazz great Gene Harris. In June of 2002, Baker had the opportunity to open for **Grammy Award Winning Jazz Trumpeter**, Alan Vizzutti and in 2003, Baker opened for **jazz legend** Dave Frishberg at **Jazz in the Canyon**.

Jeff Baker did not slow down in 2004! His first release for the Origin Records, OA2 Label "**Baker Sings Chet**", a musical tribute to the late trumpeter and singer Chet Baker, received accolades across the country and was played on over 100 jazz stations nationally. This propelled Jeff into the **Top 50** on the **JazzWeek International Chart**. With the success of the album, Jeff made his international debut in May, performing at the World renowned "**Green Dolphin Jazz Club**" in Cape Town, South Africa. Upon returning to the States in June 2004, Jeff performed among the openers for **Grammy Nominated Vocalist**, Karrin Allyson, and, at an engagement at "**Catalina's Bar and Grill**" in Hollywood, CA.

Jeff Baker released his latest CD "**Monologue**" on January 25, 2005 on the OA2 label. "**Monologue**" debuted on the **Jazz Week Charts** on March 1, 2005! It was a first ballot nominee for the 2005 Grammy Awards in three categories.

A highlight of spring 2006 was the performance at "**Jazz in the Grove**" in Bay Springs, MS. Jeff is currently working on music for his next album "**Of Things Not Seen**" due to be released in 2007.

**"REAL JAZZ FOR THE FOLKS WHO FEEL JAZZ"**

## **Bill Anschell**

Pianist Bill Anschell has performed in premiere jazz festivals and clubs throughout the U.S. and abroad, both leading his trio and as pianist/musical director for vocalist Nnenna Freelon. His concert credits include six European tours and four South American tours.

Anschell's composing and piano work is prominently featured on Freelon's Grammy-nominated recording "Shaking Free." He has also performed and/or recorded with top jazz players including Russell Malone, Richard Davis, Tierney Sutton, Russell Gunn, Ron Carter, Lionel Hampton, and many other jazz greats.

[www.billanschell.com](http://www.billanschell.com)

## **Brent Jensen**

In 1986-87, Brent studied in New York with jazz legend Lee Konitz. He was a featured winner of the Woodwinds on Fire international talent search conducted by Jazziz magazine (9 August 1996). Brent has performed with a wide variety of jazz artists including Gene Harris, Bobby Shew, Gary Foster, Dave Peck, Joe LaBarbera, John Clayton, Wycliffe Gordon Warren Vache, Curtis Stigers, John Stowell, Kristin Korb, Jamie Findlay, Duck Baker, Dianne Schuur and others.

His recording, "the Sound of a Dry Martini: Remembering Paul Desmond" on Origin Arts, charted at the #1 position on jazz radio stations across the country. "Dry Martini" was also featured on Jazz Weeks Top 100 and NPR's Jazz Works' Top 25 lists for 2002.

Brent Jensen is currently the Director of jazz Studies and Woodwinds at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and is the artistic director for the CSI Jazz Workshop series.

[www.brentjensenjazz.com](http://www.brentjensenjazz.com)

## **Jeff Johnson**

Jeff Johnson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 12/12/54. At age 20, Jeff left Minneapolis for Philadelphia to join Philly Joe Jones touring group called "Le Gran Prix". This led to Jeff's first musical experiences in New York and began a journey living and working in many cities across America. Seattle has been his primary home base since 1990.

In the 90's, Jeff began prolific associations with pianists Jessica Williams and Hal Galper. Dividing time on both coasts Jeff recorded six CD's with each group, touring the US and Europe many times playing major venues, schools, and festivals

Since 1997, Jeff has recorded three CD's as a leader for the Pacific Northwest Origin Records label. 1997's "FREE" (Origin 82370), 2000's "THE ART OF FALLING"(Origin 82386), and 2004's "NEAR EARTH".

<http://www.jazzbassist.com>

## **John Bishop**

One of the primary voices in Northwest Jazz for over 20 years, John bishop's drumming has complimented the performances of jazz greats Bobby McFerrin, Slide Hampton, Benny Golson, George Cables, Kenny Werner, Eddie Daniels, Joanne Brackeen, Carla Bley, Steve Swallow Kenny Rankin, and countless others. He's appeared on over 75 albums and videos with projects including: CD sessions with Rudy Van Gelder, Ernie Watts, Don Sickler and Tao Macero; a Grammy nominated CD with Mark Murphy for RCA: educational videos for REH/Warner Bros. and documentation for PBS.

<http://www.johnbishop.net/johnbishop/>

CD QUOTES AND REVIEWS



"-All Music Guide

**2005 First Ballot Grammy nominee: Best Vocal Jazz Album, Best Arrangement accompanying a vocalist, Best Sound Engineering for non-classical recording**

"...a strong future contender... -Jazz Times, April 2004

"Jeff Baker is an important emerging new talent." -AllAboutJazz.com

"Jeff Baker is a highly promising young vocalist whose performances are infused with energy and informed by a sharp awareness of jazz history. He is one of a handful of young singers whose career should be carefully tracked. He knows how to swing with style, and performs standards with a refreshing sense of conviction." Norman Weinstein, ASCAP-Deems Taylor award winning jazz critic, author of A NIGHT IN TUNISIA: IMAGININGS OF AFRICA IN JAZZ.

"Jeff Baker is one the best male vocalists in the Jazz world today. He's smooth, polished and a true jazz singer." Renee Williams, Music Director - WCLK, Atlanta, GA

"taking cool to a new plateau!" Jim Stone WLNZ 89.7 FM Lansing, MI Big Band Swing

"Jeff Baker. He sings and he swings on this wonderful interpretation of the songs of Chet Baker. The right singer, the right musicians. It's a winner" "Melodious" Mel Lipton WDNA-Miami

"All signs point to Jeff Baker being a welcome new force in jazz vocals that should be enjoyed over and over again." Tom Macek, WRRG - Chicago

"A voice with conviction that is here to stay! All tracks are excellent.  
"highly recommended to audiences worldwide." Ricardo Perez, KSFR - Santa Fe

"...haunting, smooth, and provocative vocal treatment..."

"...infectious persona, energy, and talent..."

"...a fresh sound in vocal jazz."

Jeff Fox Producer and host for JazzWorks, NPR syndicated

"With any luck he will be one of the more important jazz singers of the next few decades."  
Scott Yanow-Jazz Critic

"One of the smoothest voices in the music industry" Jay Edwards-WLCK, Atlanta

"Baker's voice is the star of the show." Adam Greenberg- AllMusicGuide

"instinctual and memorable." Bop n' dick's

"Jeff Baker is maturing in both his sound and interpretation and shines bright on his latest release, **Monologue.**" Gig Brown, Program Director - KUNV-Las Vegas

"Jeff displays a maturity in is vocal style that is way beyond his years. It's a true joy to the ears to listen to this young man sing. A new major jazz vocal talent in the making!" WRRG-Chicago



Review Courtesy [AllAboutJazz.com](http://AllAboutJazz.com)

## Monologue

Jeff Baker | OA2 Records

By Stephen Latessa

*Monologue* is not the most appropriate title for vocalist Jeff Baker's follow-up *Baker Sings Chet*. To his credit, Baker cedes plenty of the spotlight to his band. The result is far more conversational than its title would lead one to believe.

Singers seem to fall into one of two categories. The first is the Tony Bennett/Nat King Cole type, acting as a warm and trusted friend you can turn to when you are down and out. The second is the Frank Sinatra/Billie Holiday variety, calling you at 3 am when they find themselves down and out. Of the two, Baker easily falls into the former category. His vocals convey compassion and sincerity. He is unfailingly smooth and assured.

The tale of the perennial "A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square" is particularly representative of Baker's personable talents. His vocals are invitingly soft and gentle. At the same time, there is room for a smooth alto saxophone solo by Brent Jensen that glows with the same warmth as the vocals. Elsewhere, bassist Doug Miller contributes a fine solo on a solidly melodic version of "I Didn't Know What Time It Was". Credit must also be given for taking on material outside of the established jazz canon with an elegant reading of "The Promise" written by Tracy Chapman.

*Monologue* is an exceedingly pleasant album. It earns admiration in a way that can never be described as showy. Gentleness and subtlety are the hallmarks of the recording and the reasons why it is so enjoyable.

May 25, 2005

**CD Review: [JazzTrenzz](#) and [Jazz Review.com](#) :**  
**Jeff Baker “Monologue”**

Wednesday, March 02, 2005 - 05:00 AM

*By Karl Stober*

As the song states “A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square”, and should continue to do so, in every square, studio and venue, this young man can find an open mic. Jeff Baker just reincarnates standards, bringing a new appeal to them. This young talent is just a pure pleasure to experience, take the time to do so as well.

Mr. Baker’s second project released by OA2 Records is a dynamic and refreshing recording that offers not only the vocal spirit, but also a sharp and precise arrangement of sound. Included in “Monologue” are the keys of Bill Anschell, Doug Miller seducing the bass, and Brent Jensen polishing off the brass with his sax expertise. Also in studio are John Bishop with the sticks, and David Sabee and his cello. Collectively, these gifted musicians will add a stunning piece of jazz to your collection.

Mr. Baker is a risk taker, not only with his confidence by financing his own debut recording, but also in his selection of cuts. From cuts with less notoriety, to off the path songs from artists like Tracy Chapman, the kid has a fever pitch drive that roars out of the studio without brakes.

“The More I See You” is a stimulating piece with a strong presence of the keys handed out by Anschell. Note the smooth segue of Jensen with his sax as Anschell reintroduces the keys...very smooth instrumental spot.

“Best of” goes to the standard “A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square”, the smoothest effort of this classic one has been subjected to - outstanding range and technique, just the way this cut should be sang. This is no alto aberration. This is pure untarnished talent! Note the mix and bonding of sound accompanying the vocal; it all makes good sense

From all accounts, this charismatic crooner needs to be tracked closely. Mr. Baker has the potential to skyrocket to many accolade-coated triumphs.



Review Courtesy [AllAboutJazz.com](http://AllAboutJazz.com)

## Monologue

Jeff Baker | OA2 Records

Reviewed by [Dan McClenaghan](#)

Vocalist Jeff Baker—who'd just earned a degree in Music Education—took a risk and put the money he'd saved for grad school into making a CD. That was last year's *Baker Sings Chet Baker* (OA2 Records). Baker's good debut didn't rise to the level of top-notch excellence of his second outing, *Monologue*—sophomore jinx be damned.

A good deal of the credit for the step up into the upper class of male vocalists lies with pianist Bill Anschell, Nnenna Freelon's former musical director. His arrangements here, as well as his playing, just glow, with a light touch at times and a hard-driving forward momentum at others, a sound crafted to perfectly suit Baker's silky delivery—a vocal cross between Nat King Cole and Chet Baker, with his own personal, confident panache.

The standard “A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square” here may be the loveliest rendition of the song on record, Anschell and band involved with the vocalist in a lilting dance before Brent Jensen's sweet-toned alto croons into a solo. Another time-tested standard, “I Didn't Know What Time It Was,” picks up the pace; Anschell's fingertip dance down the keyboard at the end of the smooth flow of Baker's phrase “..and then I met you” is just sublime, as are a hundred other moments.

Two tunes here, “Answer Me” and Tracy Chapman's “The Promise,” feature David Sabee on cello, with Anschell's arrangement a less jazzy but beautifully-crafted chamber mood, suffused with reverence, like something that could be played in church, in the muted light of soft colors beaming in through windows of stained glass.

Baker's vocal style throughout has a straightforward self-assurance and a smooth flow, in contrast to a hint of the tentative on his debut disc. He goes after some familiar standards and some of the rarer ones without pretense or affectation, and he does it beautifully, in the embrace of a marvelous band.

Visit Jeff Baker on the web at [www.jeffbakerjazz.com](http://www.jeffbakerjazz.com).



Review Courtesy [AllAboutJazz.com](http://AllAboutJazz.com)

## Baker Sings Chet

Jeff Baker | OA2



**Track Listing:** How Deep Is The Ocean; The Touch Of Your Lips; I Get Along Without You Very Well; My Ideal; But Not For Me; Oh Your Crazy Moon; Let's Get Lost; My Funny Valentine; Easy Living; Autumn In New York/September Song; Everything Depends On You.

**Personnel:** Jeff Baker—Vocals; Chuck Smith—Piano; Jeff Rew—Bass; Steve Hill—Drums; Brent Jensen—Alto Saxophone; Rob Walker—Trumpet, Flugelhorn; Sandon Mayhew—Tenor Saxophone; Stan Bock—Trombone.

Jeff Baker is a Boise, Idaho native with a New York state of mind. His debut recording, *Baker Sings Chet*, pays tribute less to Chet than to the music the late vocalist made his own. Jeff Baker has a beautifully smooth and confident vocal style that would sound appealing singing polka music. Backing Mr. Baker is an exquisite septet that sounds damn near like a big band. This swinging little-big unit tears it up with pithy and intelligently arranged renditions of the Chet Baker songbook that downright refreshes the music.

Baker shares the limelight with all of the band members. Alto saxophone player Brent Jensen turns in a bona fide West Coast solo on “How Deep is the Ocean.” Tenor player Sandon Mayhew shows up on “The Touch of Your Lips,” along with bassist Jeff Rew, whose solo is short and to the point. The showstopper of the disc is an almost bulldozer abstract “But Not For Me,” a Gershwin classic taken at a breakneck pace, featuring Jensen on alto followed by Rob Walker’s flugelhorn, which gives way to Baker’s own deft scatting. The watershed “My Funny Valentine” is given an airy, dreaming treatment, with Baker’s own timbre approaching that of Chet Baker’s flat affect.

The sum of the parts of this recording is definitely greater than the whole. I recommend this recording without reservation. Jeff Baker is an important emerging new talent.

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For more information, visit [OA2 Records](#) and [Jeff Baker](#) on the web.

~ [C. Michael Bailey](#)

# Baker Sings Chet

Artist [Jeff Baker](#)

Album Title Baker Sings Chet

Date of Release Oct 21, 2003

AMG Rating ★★★★★

Genre [Jazz](#)

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## AMG REVIEW



*Baker Sings Chet* is the debut album from Jeff Baker, a Boise native that generally sings the choir and club circuits of the area. It's also a clever little play on [Chet Baker's](#) debut album title, *Chet Baker Sings*. The songs presented are all items that were associated with [Chet Baker's](#) repertoire over the years, with his classics all here to be heard. The musicians, aside from Baker, are largely veterans from the Origin Records stables, with [Rob Walker](#), [Brent Jensen](#), and [Stan Bock](#) leading the horn sections, [Chuck Smith](#) on piano, [Jeff Rew](#) on bass, and [Steve Hill](#) on drums. The band itself acts almost entirely as the background for Baker's songs, only stepping out occasionally with [Jensen](#) or [Walker](#) borrowing a line from the classic [Chet](#) recordings. The real star of the album is Jeff Baker (as one would hope), as he can alternately croon his way through "My Funny Valentine" or scat a path through an old [Gershwin](#) number, showing equal prowess either way. Often, the artists hailing from the smaller cities end up having less exposure and less development in jazz, and Idaho certainly isn't known for its local jazz scenes (aside from the [Lionel Hampton](#) festivals), so the abilities and existence of Jeff Baker and his sound are something worth pondering in the first place. Moreover, his work is worth hearing, of course, by fans of [Chet](#) as a nice tribute album, but also by newcomers to vocal jazz that haven't heard the cool male sound before, or at least not a good execution of the cool male sound. Baker does a fine job in recreating both the technical ability and the mood of [Chet's](#) old work, despite being 40 or 50 years removed. — **Adam Greenberg**

# WWW.JAZZREVIEW.COM

**Featured Artist:** Jeff Baker

**CD Title:** Baker Sings Chet

**Year:** 2003

**Record Label:** OA2 Records

**Style:** Jazz Vocals

**Musicians:** Jeff Baker (vocals), Chuck Smith (piano), Jeff Rew (bass), Steve Hill (drums), Brent Jensen (alto sax), Rob Walker (trumpet & flugelhorn), Sandon Mayhew (tenor sax), Stan Bock (trombone).

**Review:** As a clever play on the title of Chet Baker's "Chet Baker Sings", Jeff Baker's (no relation, as far as my research shows) new CD, "Baker Sings Chet" is a smooth and delightful tribute to Chet Baker. Mr. Baker's interpretation of Chet Baker's (this review might get a tad confusing, methinks) is very honorable. I find that fans of Chet Baker, and fans of more mainstream vocalists such as Nora Jones or even John Mayer will enjoy Jeff Baker's delicate yet strong voice and delivery.

Mr. Baker's approach to the material is not a novel idea, but it's extremely well executed. Backed by a band of considerable talent, "Baker Sings Chet" is chocked full of great renditions of Chet Baker favorites. Highlights include, "The Thrill is Gone", "Autumn in New York/September Song (medley)", and "How Deep is the Ocean". This is a CD I'd recommend for a snowy winter night in front of the fireplace with a nice red wine.

"Baker Sings Chet" is the debut release from Jeff Baker, and I believe that we'll hear more from him soon. At least we should.

**Record Label Website:** <http://www.oa2records.com/>

**Artist's Website:** <http://www.jeffbakerjazz.com/>

**Reviewed by:** [Joe Doherty](#)