

BRADLEY LEIGHTON, Jazz Flutist & Clinician

Bradley Leighton brings a unique and powerful sound to flute. His style of swing evolved from listening to the big, hi-octane bands of Kenton, Herman and Ferguson in the 60's-70's. His funkiness derives from years of listening to Tower of Power, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Brecker Brothers and countless other soul/R&B acts. He brings a fire and flair not usually heard nor expected from a flutist. Bradley has performed across the US and Asia, as both sideman and bandleader, for over 25 years. Recent gigs included opening the Greater Hartford Jazz Festival for Joyce Cooling and Gerald Albright and headlining the Gainesville Jazz Festival. He's also headlined for the Tacoma Wine and Jazz Festival, the Rancho Mirage Art Affaire and has played famous clubs like Brooklyn Jazz Café in Dallas, Scat Jazz Lounge in Houston, Humphrey's, Anthology and Dizzy's in San Diego and a multitude of clubs and festivals across the United States. This summer he'll be performing at the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, the Takoma Park, MD Jazz Festival, Wilbert's in Cleveland, the Musuem of African American History in Detroit and The Carlyle Club in Alexandria, VA among numerous other tour stops.



In addition to recording and performing, Bradley Leighton has continued to share his knowledge and enthusiasm of music as a clinician and teacher. Besides private lessons, he leads workshops for musicians of all skill levels, including, "Jazz Improvisation for the Classically Trained Flutist," and "Music For Life - Improvisation for the Adult Amateur Musician." He's a Yamaha Performing Artist and Flute Coach at the Music Magnet School, Oak Park Elementary, in San Diego, CA.

Artist History

Bradley Leighton's musical interests have always been diverse. As a young man, he loved big band music, particularly Maynard Ferguson, Stan Kenton and Woody Herman. Yet he also found himself drawn to the R&B sounds of Tower of Power, Earth Wind and Fire, and, the Brecker Brothers.

Having mentors both assist and encourage Bradley, and a true love of performing, served as the catalysts for his decision to pursue a career in music. Immediately after high school, he seized an opportunity by enlisting and playing in the Army's 9th Infantry Division band at Ft. Lewis, Washington. When his talent quickly became obvious, he was appointed musical director of the jazz ensemble. A tour with the 8th Army band in Seoul, Korea soon followed. Bradley remained in Seoul after his discharge several years later to teach, and perform in the country's only Jazz bar.

He returned to Seattle for more professional opportunities after his time in Seoul. By now, an accomplished musician and teacher, he spent the next fifteen years playing in rhythm and blues bands, Hammond organ trios, funk dance bands and straight-ahead jazz groups. He also taught privately, working with encouraging young musicians, just as his Seattle mentors had done for him.

During this period, he worked in bands that accompanied such legendary artists as Bobby McFerrin, Clark Terry, Dizzy Gillespie and Patti Kim in addition to jamming and playing with all the local musicians. He became Seattle's first call flutist, and developed a reputation as one of the leading players in the area.

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While on the road, he conducts clinics and masterclasses for schools and often brings with him his Duo (with Evan Marks (Fattburger) on guitar, Quartet (with Allan Phillips on keyboards and Cecil McBee, Jr. on bass) and larger bands, depending on the need and the event.

Discography (4)

2008

Soul Collective



2006 *Back to the Funk*





2005 *Just Doin' Our Thang*



2003 *Groove Yard*

All albums currently being sold at all major retail outlets nationwide. MVD Entertainment is the exclusive distributor for Pacific Coast Jazz.

Bradley has also been featured on other CD's including:

Seattle Groove, their album entitled "Seattle Groove," www.deemsmusic.com

Seattle Groove, their album entitled "Love West," www.deemsmusic.com and

Deems Tsutakawa, his album entitled "Deems Greatest Hits," www.deemsmusic.com

Bridget Brigitte, her album entitled "Where Birds Meet in the Rain," www.bridgetmusic.com

Bradley is a member of the Board of the San Diego Flute Guild and a participating member of the National Flute Association as well as the leader of the Rancho Penasquitos Flute Choir and the Penasquitos Jazz Flute Choir. Bradley has been a **Yamaha Performing Artist** since January 2006. His album, "*Just Doin' Our Thang*" was nominated for Best Jazz Album of the Year in 2005 by the San Diego Music Awards Academy and his album "*Back to the Funk*" was named Best Jazz Album of the Year in 2006 by the San Diego Music Awards Academy. "*Soul Collective*" was nominated for the same award in 2009. He regularly performs gratis for a number of philanthropic organizations in San Diego.

Monitored airplay has been received on:

Sirius Satellite Radio/"Jazz Cafe" channel

WEIB/Springfield, MA

Music Choice/Satellite and Cable TV

WVSU/Birmingham, AL

WGRV/Melbourne, FL

KCOZ/Springfield, MO

WVAS/Montgomery, AL

KUAP/Little Rock, AR

DMX Cable Radio/"Jazz Vocal Blend"

channel

DMX Cable Radio/"Smooth Jazz" channel

Smoothjazz.com

Smoothindiestar.com

WBCP/Champaign-Urban, IL

KIPO/Honolulu, HI

WOEZ/Knoxville, TN

WDLT/Mobile, AL

WLFR/Atlantic City, NJ

Radioio.com Smooth Jazz/Internet

Chicosradio.com/Internet

KECG/Oakland, CA

KUNV/Las Vegas, NV

KJZT/Tulsa, OK

Fusion Flavours/Specialty show

Choice 102.9/Boston, MA

KSHK/Kauai, HI (jazz show)

WVOD/Manteo, NC

KPVL/Postville, IA

KOKY/Little Rock, AR

Smoothsoul.net/Internet

WRTC/Hartford, CT

WSGE/Charlotte, NC

KRBB/Wichita, KS (Sunday jazz show on A/C station)

WICR/Indianapolis, IN

Smoothjazzexcursion.com/Internet

Blue Plate Radio/Live365.com/Internet

Smoothjazz.com/Internet

KQXT/San Antonio, TX (Sunday jazz show on A/C station)

WHIL/Mobile, AL

BoomerRadio.com/Internet

KCCK/Cedar Rapids, IA

KXPT/Las Vegas, NV (Sunday jazz show on

Classic Hits station)

WFSK/Nashville, TN

WJAB/Huntsville, AL

WCNI/New London, CT

KTSU/Houston, TX

WRFN/Nashville, TN

WQTQ/Hartford, CT

WTCC/Springfield, MA

KYSJ/Coos Bay, OR

KMXG/Davenport, IA



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BRADLEY LEIGHTON *Soul Collective* Pacific Coast Jazz

I remember recommending flutist Bradley Leighton's JUST DOIN' OUR THANG as a superb example of "Smooth Jazz meets cool jazz" a few years ago. Then it was BACK TO THE FUNK where "Smooth Jazz meets old school funk," that I was raving about. Now he's done it again with his newest release, his 4th, SOUL COLLECTIVE, where as Bradley puts it, "we feature the flute in a variety of ensemble

settings... each... producing its own unique sound." What a great collection of tunes! He continues, "It's fresh and funky – with just enough old school greaze added to 'keep that same old feeling' alive and well." He's got label-mate Tom Braxton playing sax on a pair of killer tracks, "It's On!" and "Café con Leche." Sax man Tom Scott comes aboard for a great re-do of the Hall & Oates classic "She's Gone," plus he's on two other cool tunes. Mr. Leighton invited guitarist Evan Marks (Fattburger) to perform on this album as well, and two of the tracks ("Ode to Billy Joe" and "Keep That Same Old Feeling"), previously released to radio but up 'til now not available on an album, feature Jason Miles as arranger/producer/keyboardist. As I've mentioned before, I love Bradley's playing and percussionist/keyboardist Allan Phillips' collaborations with him. SOUL COLLECTIVE is another home run for everyone involved. It's world-class in every sense of the word. Smooth Jazz wins big on this one!
~SCOTT O'BRIEN,
SmoothJazz.com



www.smoothvibes.com

March 2, 2008

BRADLEY LEIGHTON - SOUL COLLECTIVE

Welcome to the latest issue of Denis Poole's Secret Garden, the page that offers a British perspective on the very best from the world of smooth jazz and classic soul. In the world of innovative contemporary jazz 2008 may well prove to be the year of the flute. Its spine tingling vibe has the ability to take the art form to another place and one protagonist with the potential to do just that is the extraordinary Bradley Leighton. His brand new album, the aptly titled 'Soul Collective', is replete with a deliciously soulful vibe and it is testimony to Leighton's growing stature within the genre that a galaxy of stars have come out to collaborate with him.

There is none more in this respect than the legendary Tom Scott who adds his distinctive sax to the succulent 'Wake Up Call'. With his hip, brass adorned backdrop creating the ideal canvass for Leighton's intricate yet rhythmic playing they together create four minutes of magic that is a sensation from beginning to end. When Scott returns to lend a hand with the Hall and Oates classic 'She's Gone' his interplay with Leighton is a pure delight. The fact that the tune generates a luscious horn driven warmth is due in no small part to the excellent trumpet and trombone of Mic Gillette. This Bay Area icon and former Tower of Power mainstay is also called upon to play a part in the two numbers for which Leighton joins forces with Pacific Coast Jazz label-mate Tom Braxton. The first of these, 'It's On' is a tremendously zesty slice of smooth jazz while the Latin infused 'Café Con Leche' is a wonderful showcase for Leighton's talents.

The restrained yet jazzy 'Undercover' is one of five tracks composed by Allan Phillips who also arranges, produces and plays keyboards throughout. It features another of Tower of Power's exclusive alumni, trumpeter Greg Adams, plus guitar from Fattburger stalwart Evan Marks. In fact Marks makes a contribution to seven of the nine cuts. When he gives way to Sherrod Barnes for Leighton's re-

imagining of the Bobbi Gentry hit 'Ode To Billy Joe' it's the keyboard and production touches of Jason Miles that faultlessly complement Leighton's picture perfect playing. Rhonda Smith also features on bass and, with the addition of Katreese Barnes on vocals, it's this same Miles, Sherrod Barnes and Smith partnership that holds down the groove for Leighton's take on Wayne Henderson's 'Keep That Same Old Feeling'. If ever there was a doubt that the flute could be funky then the totally compelling 'Rock Me Softly' proves it for all time. The tune is another welcome chance to enjoy the muted trumpet of Greg Adams and when Leighton brings him back one more time the result is the retro tinged 'That Man'. Written by Paula Prophet, who also provides the distinctly 5th Dimension like vocals, the track is further blessed by more magnificent sax from Tom Scott.

'Soul Collective' follows Leighton's 2006 album 'Back To The Funk' and is his fourth in all. It has the red thread of joyous warmth running right through it and is sure to be one of the highlights of 2008.

Do you have any comments on what you have found in this edition of the Secret Garden? If so please contact the Smooth Jazz Vibes Guest Book or e-mail me on DenisPoole2000@Yahoo.com

JazzReview.com, April 2, 2008

You may have never heard the flute played like this until you've heard Bradley Leighton's twitters and flaps. He plays the flute like it moves with the swiftness of guitar chords, the liquidity quality of the keyboards, and possesses the enigmatic presence of the saxophone. He turns his flute into whatever instrument he wants it to be. His latest release *Soul Collective*, produced and arranged by Allan Phillips, is Leighton's fourth studio album. The songs display a sinewy soul-funk stylistic that shares an association to the work of saxophonist/producer/arranger Darren Rahn and peppered with R&B influences that have an attachment to Earth, Wind & Fire and Tavares. *Soul Collective* features several guest musicians such as saxophonist Tom Scott on the remake of the Hall & Oates pop single "She's Gone." The interplay of instruments is kiln by a mellifluous gloss as the notes build into billowing crescendos and taper off in the outro. It pumps a euphoric air into the album, which is geared towards a dance-funk destination.

Saxophonist Tom Braxton and Leighton lead the trail into dance-funk domains with the opening track "It's On." The flexibility in the joints that connect the flute and saxophone phrases together enables the melody to bend in ways that mesmerizes the listener. The album keeps to its mission providing a peppy strut with the Latin-flavoring of "Café Con Leche" featuring guitarist Evan Marks who trades off his riffs with Leighton and produces wavelets of vivacious dynamics. "Wake Up Call" brings the horns to the front cultivating an allegro tempo shaped by swiftly moving segments buttered in coasting legato grooves. Vocalist Paula Prophet's singing on "That Man," which is written by Prophet, moves with a loose swagger and blissful fluidity that shines with R&B/soul cinders. Leighton gives country diva Bobbi Gentry's classic tune "Ode To Billy Joe" a smooth jazz treatment that brings out its silky curvaceous ride. Leighton keeps the music dancing with prints of gentle motifs on "Rock Me Softly" and "Undercover." The final track "Keep That Same Old Feeling" is a remake of the Crusaders hit song and sung by Katresse Barnes delivering a smooth sensuality that lulls the listener with pacifying tones.

Starting out in Tacoma, Washington, Bradley Leighton has made a name for himself in smooth jazz cliques amassing a sweet lineup on *Soul Collective* that additionally includes Greg Adams on trumpet and flugelhorn, Mic Gillette on trumpet and trombone, and Jason Miles on keyboards. Leighton debuted in 2003 with his solo album *Groove Yard* followed up with his 2005 release *Just Doin' Our Thang*. His third album *Back To The Funk* is comprised of inventive arrangements and standards that gave him critical acclaim worldwide. His latest release *Soul Collective* is to Bradley Leighton what *Grand Central* is to Jeff Golub's catalog of music. It is an album that shows where Leighton has come from, what he has learned to do with his talent, and introduces audiences to the friends that he has met along the way. *Soul tive* is a personal best for Leighton who can make his flute sound like anything that he wants it to be.

Reviewed by: [Susan Frances](#)

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FORUM BRADLEY LEIGHTON-SOUL COLLECTIVE

As soon as I saw the cover of the CD it reminded me of a cover design for a Herbie Mann album...but flutist Bradley Leighton has more of a Bobbi Humphrey influence. This CD is like a musical tour with different guest artists getting on board.

The tour starts with Tom Braxton on alto sax in a Jazz Crusader mood...riding through LAs mean streets in the same 1966 caddy convertible used in the Wes Montgomery and Jimmy Smith review.

Tom tells us on his sax how the souls of the street girls are too dead for dreamingbut Bradley replies on his flute that there is magic in the night...and there is sweet salvation under the caddy's hood if they want to come riding with him to a place of real freedom.

Then the great Tom Scott takes over the driving seat on his alto and tenor saxes cruising the beaches to check out the beautiful Californian girls...strutting the sand...while Bradley paints in the deep blue sea and sky and dream that goes on forever.

Leighton then backs Paula Prophet on her own song (That Man)...she is a professional and polished vocalist...as well as a good songwriter. Leighton and keyboardist Jason Miles bring a beautiful Quincy Jones "Heat of the Night "feel to "Ode to Billy Joe".

Greg Adams comes in on trumpet and flugelhorn-a sort of Miles Davis Randy Brecker nfluence... very hard-edged like the City of Angels.

Katreese Barnes singing on "Keep that same old feeling" is very nice. Allan Phillips not only wrote many of the tunes on this CD but provided very funky keyboard playing ..just right for Tom Scott to take off and drag off some young boys in a Honda CRX. I enjoy Evan Marks guitar playing ...very Bensonish but he has something of his own which fascinates me. Tom Scott burning rubber in a classic caddy...blowing a CRX away fascinates me even more. Check out www.pacificcoastjazz.com This music is great for nightcruising too. Geoffrey Totton
geofftotton@xtra.co.nz



3-18-08

In the contemporary jazz world - where guitars and Saxes currently reign supreme - flutist Bradley Leighton brings a Smooth rendition of some soul grooves. For this project Bradley enlisted some seasoned veterans to assist in the making. His playing blends so beautifully with the horns and the rhythm section, if you grew up with Tower of Power and Herb Alpet, you will love this CD.

The first track called **"It's On!"** is an upbeat smooth jazz flow with the alto flute playing center stage. Track two **"Café con Leche"** is a Latin beat featuring Tom Braxton and Mic Gillette, sure to make you want Salsa. **"Wake Up Call"** is next featuring the smooth sound of Tom Scott; this tune will surely take you back to your bell bottoms and big collars. Since we're in the seventies here is a cover of the hit by Hall and Oats, **"She's Gone"**, with assists from Tom Scott and Mic Gillette.

You knew the vocals were coming and this next selection **"That Man"** was led by the vocals of Paula Prophet, and on horns Greg Adams and Tom Scott. Once again Bradley takes you back with his version of **"Ode to Billy Joe"**, with Jason Miles. To get your head bobbin again Bradley and Greg Adams come together to rock this next song entitled **"Rock Me Softly"**, my favorite track on the cd.

"Keep That Same Old Feeling" wraps up the cd and it has a nice R&B flavor to it, with vocals done by Katreese Barnes. This is a nice cd to own if you enjoy the sound of the flute. Bradley Leighton brought together a nice combination of players to get a nice assortment of smooth jazz tunes.

D Mo' --The Urban Music Scene.com



RadioIndy is pleased to present Bradley Leighton with a GrIndie Award for their CD "Soul Collective"

"Soul Collective" by Bradley Leighton is a smooth jazz fusion album with groove and an upbeat flair. The arrangements are solid and very active. There is quite a lot going on in every song and yet it all comes together. The musicianship throughout is outstanding. The sax and flute work in particular on this album really stand out, playing quite well off each other. The production on the CD gives an excellent classic smooth jazz sound. Highlights are "Cafe' Con Leche" with Latin elements in the percussion and a vibe that makes you feel like you are walking on clouds. "Ode to Billy Joe" has a funky bassline, mellow flute and nice accentual elements. "Undercover" is one of the strongest arrangements and features some fantastic guitar work. If you enjoy smooth jazz and listening to outstanding jazz musicians, you'll love this CD.

-William and the RadioIndy.com Reviewer Team

[Check out Bradley Leighton's music on RadioIndy.com with link to purchase and links to popular sites](#)