

Music Boulevard

Heads Up Super Band Set



For New Year's Eve Concert in Portland Following Release of New Live Recording

Group Features Jazz Recording Artist Joe McBride, Kenny Blake, and Gerald Veasley

While crowds throughout Europe have cheered heads Up International recording artist Joe McBride, Kenny Blake and Gerald Veasley at special live performance of the **Heads Up Super Band**, the trio have rarely teamed for U.S. appearances. However, fans in the Northwest who are familiar with the band's new album **Heads Up Super Band Live at Berks Jazz Fest** (HUCD 3046) — will finally have a chance to hear the band perform December 31 at KKJZ Radio's New Year's Eve event at the Embassy Suites in downtown Portland.

Heads Up Super Band Live at Berks Jazz Fest was released earlier this fall and has been steadily climbing the smooth jazz radio charts nationwide. Featuring pianist/vocalist McBride, saxophonist Blake, and bassist Veasley with drummer Keith Carlock, the disc is also enhanced CD featuring video footage from the bands spring 1998 concert in Berks county, Pennsylvania.

The Super Band brings together the top smooth jazz players from the roster of Seattle-based record label Heads Up International. "Though Kenny, Joe and Gerald are all great solo artists with followings of their own, sometimes we can't resist the temptation to create a monster show featuring all

of them together," explains label president Dave Love. "Together, these guys are the ultimate contemporary jazz band.

They have sold out shows all across Europe, so we thought it was time to share their collaborations with audiences at home." Following Berks, the Heads Up Super Band also performed last summer at a few major jazz festivals, including the Capital Jazz Festival, Syracuse's Jazz Festival, Carolina Music Fest and the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival.

In addition to Heads Up Band Live At Berks Jazz Fest, three members of the group have recorded their own solo projects for the label:

Acclaimed Steeltown saxman Kenny Blake was a smooth jazz, radio favorite with his 1996 album, *An Intimate Affair* (HUCD 3037), his fourth CD for Heads Up. Best Known for his trademark R&B rolling sound recalling King Curtis and Cannonball Adderly, Blake signed with Heads Up in 1991 after a stint with pop-jazz band Cabo Frio.

Pianist/vocalist Joe McBride is riding high on the success of his 1998 recording, *Double Take* (HUCD 3044), his fourth Heads Up release. Refusing to confine himself to any particular genre of music, the Dallas-based musician

blends Jazz, bebop, R&B, funk, gospel and hip hop on the new album, which features guest performances by saxophonist Dave Koz and Richard Elliot, flugelhornist Rick Braun, vocalist Phil Perry, and guitarist Peter White.



Gerald Veasley, who specializes in six-string electric bass, brought together an all-star lineup for his 1997 Heads Up release, *Soul control*. Guests included saxophonist Grover Washington, Jr. and fellow Heads Up Band members Blake and McBride, as well as jazz, soul diva Dianne Reeves, Earth Wind & Fire vocalist Philip Bailey, trumpeter/flugelhornist Rick Braun, Caribbean Jazz. Projects vibraphonist Dave Samuels, and the late saxophonist George Howard.

Drummer Keith Carlock is the newest member of this tight ensemble. Carlock is also currently recording and touring with Steeley Dan, The Blues Brothers, Paula Abdul and others.

All of the Heads Up Super Band members' recent solo release are also enhanced CDs, which feature videos, sound bytes, biographical information, graphics, free internet access and more.

The KKJZ New Year's performance and champagne buffet kicks off at 8 p.m. Tickets are available through Fastixx. For more information, phone 503-224-8499

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