

BOBBY READ QUARTET



SIMBIA



SMALL WORLD MUSIC

phone: 540-456-6999

web: www.bobbyread.com

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"I've been very fortunate to have been around and played with many great musicians [e.g., Buddy Rich, Lionel Hampton, Tito Puente, Miles Davis, Quincy Jones]. Bobby is absolutely one of the very best musicians I've met in my life." —John D'earth

"I think of Bobby as the Kouhoutek of the sax because of his comet-like talents." —Bruce Hornsby

"What I tried to do was to make an inviting jazz record," says Bobby Read. *Simbia*, his latest CD with the Bobby Read Quartet, is exactly that. Bobby's twelve original tunes on this record are lyrical, heartfelt, and concise. Listening to them, you get the sense that you're hearing a lost jazz standard for the first time. Still there's nothing really retro about this record—the musicians explore each of these songs with a fully modern ear.

The Quartet approached the material almost casually, recording with little or no rehearsal, often having never played the compositions before that moment. In three brief sessions, they laid down all of the dozen tunes, sometimes nailing them in one or two takes. The result is a record that sounds elegant and effortless, and really focuses on the tunes, taking care not to let the virtuosity or improvisational stamina of the players obscure the melodies at the heart of the music.

Bobby Read has been playing music for over thirty years—from progressive rock, to chamber folk, to hard bop jazz. He's been a fixture in Bruce Hornsby's band since the early 1990's. He's played on, engineered, or produced over 100 records, including a number of his own band and collaborative projects, but lately he's been giving more attention to his original solo material. In 2006, he released *Monkfish*, showcasing his work with the EWI (electronic wind instrument). *Simbia* is the first fully acoustic jazz record centered around his work on tenor and soprano saxophone. He's found a crew of young, creative, versatile musicians to accompany him: Wells Hanley on piano, Curtis Fye on bass, and Brian Caputo on drums.

Don't look *simbia* up in the dictionary. It's a made-up word. On the one hand, it's an allusion to "symbiosis," the scientific term that literally means "to live together" and signifies the ability of certain creatures to thrive in each other's presence through an evolved cooperation, seemingly without effort or calculation. But it also suggests the name of a place—perhaps that spot in the geography of the imagination where different musical voices and eras can co-exist. But finally, says Bobby, "It just seemed to fit."



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