

John Domnarski Trio

Read about JDT, the John Domnarski Trio, and why this new band is attracting attention from music lovers of all ages and backgrounds with its catchy, eclectic music. Though rooted in jazz, JDT's sound is an experience combining diverse musical elements.



In the music world, artists and fans alike are constantly searching for that new, different, and exciting sound. Go ahead and call off the search. The John Domnarski Trio (JDT), hailing from Brooklyn, New York, keep listeners engaged, as its music effortlessly traverses genres from song to song.

Self-described as “instrumental jazz/rock,” JDT is led by John Domnarski (piano/keyboards), with Aaron Nevezie (bass) and Dave Mason (drums). The trio officially formed in 2007. All three members have a history of playing a variety of genres in other bands, so each one brings a different musical perspective to the table. “We take jazz, rock, pop and electronic music and throw it in a blender,” said Domnarski.

Defining a particular sound is an ever-evolving process for many groups. “I set out to write music that adheres more to traditional song forms with strong melodies, which is then balanced with improvisatory sections,” Domnarski explained.

This philosophy, coupled with the trio’s love for many types of music, lays the foundation for the most recent JDT album, “Inventing the Wheel.” The diverse array of sounds is evident throughout the entire album and showcases Domnarski’s virtuosic

approach to the piano. Songs like the electro-infused, beat-driven “Gastrophysics” juxtapose the more acoustic melodic-based tracks like “Sleeping With My Avatar” to deliver a collection of tunes reflective of the eclecticism of the New York City music scene by which JDT was heavily influenced. “NYC is teeming with great bands and great venues and on any given night, you can witness some amazing music being made,” said Domnarski.

JDT has played such prominent venues as Blue Note, NUBLU and National Arts Club in New York. “Our most memorable gig, for me, was the first time we played Jazz Standard last year,” said Domnarski. “The ‘Standard’ is one of the best listening rooms in the city and some amazing musicians have been on that stage.”

The live setting gives JDT the freedom to take their music in any direction they feel is right for the moment. “A set list can include originals, improv jams, and rock covers...we have a lot of freedom to move around within the song,” explained Domnarski. While implementing elements of different genres, JDT’s music is still firmly rooted in jazz, which is improvisatory by its very definition. “I think the band is very good at relating to and



playing off the audience, which makes for a fun show experience for everyone, including us,” said Domnarski.

JDT is characterized by their adventurous injection of different types of music into jazz that traditionally are never combined. The demographic of a JDT audience follows suit. On a given night, the crowd contains anyone from 20-something college kids to middle-aged jazz heads. The trio even played a concert at the National Arts Club last year where the average age was 75. “We haven’t sold that many CD’s since!” said Domnarski of that show. “It’s fun to see how such different people can find different things to love in the same song,” he added. The disparity in age at these concerts is a testament to the music itself. Creating music that three generations of people can all enjoy is a rare and truly spectacular feat.

While playing predominantly in New York City and the surrounding area, JDT is hoping to go abroad and book a tour in Europe this year. The band is easily accessible on the internet in both audio and video formats. The video featuring the fast-paced track, “Neckface,” showed some serious determination from all involved. Videographer Brandon Dagnall was jailed for one night while filming for the video in a New York City subway! Domnarski notes, “It’s an awesome video and I’d like to think it was worth a night in jail – but then again, it wasn’t me.”

