

## Jazz notables launch new group

John Stewart

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It's always nice when you ask a few of your friends to join your band — and you end up with the creme-de-la-creme of the rich and deep Toronto jazz community at your disposal. Of course, when you are Mississauga trombonist William Carn and Mississauga saxophonist Tara Davidson — a married couple whose solo albums have been separately nominated for Juno awards — and your circle of friends includes much of the talented core of Toronto's jazzers, it's not that big a stretch. Called the Carn Davidson 9 or CD9 for short, the couple's two-year-old group is just about to release its first album, called 9, on Nov. 15. Speaking from the Lakeview home where they've lived for almost a year, Davidson says she and Carn knew they were taking on a significant challenge when they decided to put together a nine-piece group which would play chordless music. The group is made up of seven woodwind players, all of whom play at least two instruments on the record. A drummer and a bass player fill out the sound.

"It's all very intricate," says Brampton native Davidson, "because it's an all-horn band and everyone is playing all the time. There's a lot to keep track of. The horns are doing triple duty, playing the harmony and melody and soloing."

Even with a veteran group of players, such as the all-star group that comprises CD9, it's not difficult for things to go awry, says Davidson.

But things went well in the studio this summer, even though the leaders were also kept busy co-producing the record while playing in the band.

Asked to describe the sound, the York University jazz instructor says, "it's sort of like a chamber ensemble — but jazz." She plays alto and soprano sax on the record.

The lineup of first-call players and arrangers includes Carn on trombone, Kelly Jefferson on tenor sax and flute, Perry White on baritone sax and bass clarinet, Jason Logue on lead trumpet and flugelhorn, Kevin Turcotte on trumpet and flugelhorn, Terry Promane on trombone, bass bone and tuba, Andrew Downing on bass and Fabio Ragnelli on drums.

The key to the success of chamber jazz, which relies on a constant interplay of instruments, is a group of nimble experienced players and a set of great arrangements, says Davidson.

Half of the tracks on the record were written by Carn and half by Davidson. They each arranged several of the tunes but Promane, Logue, and Andy Ballantyne arranged others.

Davidson said the first arrangement she got, from guitarist Reg Schwager was "inspirational" and informed the "refreshed" arrangements she did of her own tunes.

The execution of the music more than matched the vision she and Carn had for it, says Davidson. "The end result has exceeded our expectations."



**New CD.** CD9, a group of veteran Toronto musicians put together by Mississauga residents William Carn and Tara Davidson (centre) will launch their first CD Nov. 15 at the University of Toronto's jazz faculty building in downtown Toronto. *Supplied*

The CD will be available at the launch concert, which begins at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 at the U of T jazz faculty at 90 Wellesley St. W. General admission is \$10, or \$20 if you also buy the CD. Student admission is \$5 or \$15 with the CD.

The record, on Addo Records, is available Nov. 15 on iTunes and in stores. You can hear a preview of three tracks at <http://www.williamcarn.com/williamcarn.com/CD9.html>.  
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