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Jazz CD produced by Albion family gains exposure on worldwide web 'Generations' features original compositions

By Jim Dickerson

Jazz enthusiasts have discovered a new album produced by Painted Heart Music of Albion and featuring three generations of a local family.

A track from the album, "Alligator Wine," was chosen as download of the day on March 28 by the jazz website *All About Jazz*.

"There's a lot of good music on that site, so it's quite an honor to be selected," said Paul Hosford.

Paul wrote "Alligator Wine" at age 16, and his son, Thomas, was only 15 when he recorded his part of that music.

The new CD, entitled *Generations: A Legacy of Jazz*, is all original music written by Frank and Paul. It is played by three generations of the Hosford family of Albion -- Paul, Paul's now-deceased father, Frank, and two of Paul's children, Thomas and Angela. The Hosfords were also joined on some tracks by friend Rich Hughes of Grand Island on the trumpet and flugelhorn, and Boone Central band director Whitney Paulson on violin.

All of the music on the CD is original jazz composed by Frank and Paul. The song titles are also quite original. In addition to "Alligator Wine," one is called "Thunder Lizard."

The first step in this project came early in 2012, when Paul began recording his father and himself playing music on original jazz instruments while Frank was residing in a nursing home.

"My father would play his piano and organ parts on a keyboard in his room, while I played bass guitar with him and recorded us on a laptop," said Paul. "I would then replace the bass guitar with



Frank Hosford at his keyboard.

my string bass and add drums, guitar and flute, with Thomas on the vibes."

"It took about six weeks to get each song put together in a way that sounded like we all played together," Paul concluded.

Thomas, who was then 13, joined Paul and his father in August of 2012.

Generations marks not only the culmination of Frank's musical endeavors, but also the debut of his teenage grandson, Thomas, on vibraphone. Thomas' sister, Angela, played flute on one song, and Whitney Paulson played violin on one track.

Though rooted in the Kansas City style of jazz and reflecting many influences, the Hosfords' music has a unique style that has evolved over the decades.

Frank Hosford passed away in December of 2013. He did get to hear the "rough mixes," but didn't

get to hear the finished project.

All other musicians finished their work on the CD by August of 2014, and Paul then sent the mixes to a firm on the East Coast for the finishing touches.

The oldest of the Hosfords' sons, William, then began work on preparing graphics for the CD, and he completed that work by late fall. Paul also produced a 32-page booklet to accompany the CD. The booklet is intended for close friends and family members.

Painted Heart Music also has a new website, and William and Angela created a Facebook page for the company.

"We're thrilled to have one of our songs featured on a major jazz web site," concluded Paul. "I've been getting some really positive responses from friends and musicians across the country."



Paul Hosford



Thomas Hosford