

Generations

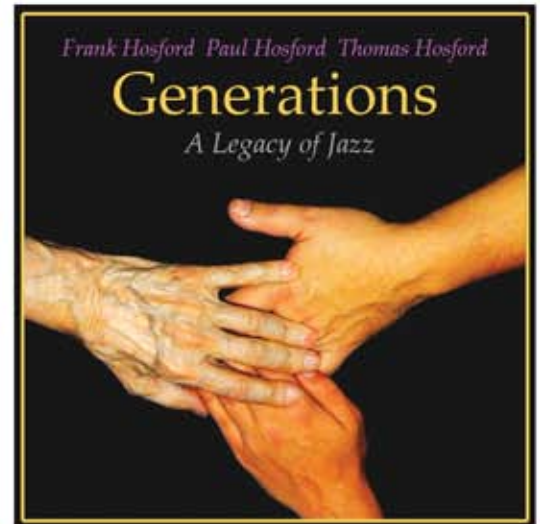
A Legacy of Jazz



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Generations is an original jazz CD featuring three generations of the Hosford family – Paul, Paul’s father Frank, and Paul’s children, Thomas and Angela. Recorded in part in the nursing home where Frank spent his final years, *Generations* marks not only the culmination of Frank’s musical endeavors but also his teenage grandson Thomas’ debut on vibraphone.

Three years in the making, *Generations* features fourteen compositions by both Frank and Paul. Though rooted in the Kansas City style of jazz and reflecting many influences, the Hosford’s music – which has evolved over a period of decades – has a unique style all its own.

Generations features Frank on piano and organ; Paul on string bass, guitar, flute, drums/percussion and electric piano; and Thomas on vibraphone. Thomas’ sister Angela plays flute on *Pickle Puss* and the family is also joined by long-time friend Rich Hughes on trumpet & flugelhorn and Thomas’ band director, Whitney Paulson on violin.

Generations’ diverse melodies and moods – from the straight-ahead *Sailin’* to the rich and contemplative *What Might Have Been* – have been described “marvelous,” “magical” and “a great musical treat.” Though Frank did not live to see *Generations* completed, through this once-in-a-lifetime multi-generational collaboration his rich musical legacy lives on.

For more information please contact:
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Track Listing

1. Her Eyes
2. Thunder Lizard
3. Sailin’
4. Ghost Of A Dance
5. Trialogue
6. Jubilation/Take A Chance
7. Yesterday’s Dreams
8. Jump!
9. Alligator Wine
10. What Might Have Been
11. Movin’ Along
12. Who’d ‘ave Believed
13. Pickle Puss
14. Persimmon

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The Story of Generations

When Paul Hosford's 13-year-old son Thomas asked if "they could talk," Paul had no idea what was coming. But to Paul's delight Thomas explained that he wanted to play vibraphone on the original jazz CD Paul and Paul's father Frank were recording. And in joining his father and grandfather Thomas was not only beginning his own musical career, he was embracing a family musical tradition that dates back more than 90 years.

The Hosford's have been playing jazz in the small rural community of Albion, Nebraska, since Paul's grandfather Russ played banjo with a Dixieland band in the early 1920s. During WWII Russ's son Frank, who served in the Navy as a musician, had the opportunity to work with other jazz musicians from across the country. And though Frank returned to Albion after the war, he continued to learn, play and compose throughout his life.

Frank's decades of musical accomplishment were in danger of being lost, though, when late in life his declining health forced him to move into a nursing home. So in 2012, in order to both preserve his father's music and give Frank "something to keep him going," Paul, who had learned bass, guitar and flute by playing with his family as a child, began recording as much of Frank's music as Frank's precarious health would allow.

Though Frank passed away before its release, through their new CD, *Generations: A Legacy of Jazz*, his music lives on. Recorded in part in Frank's room at his nursing home and featuring compositions by both Frank and Paul, *Generations* – which took three years to complete – not only celebrates this father and son's decades of musical collaboration, it passes the family's musical legacy on to Thomas, who plays vibraphone on all fourteen tunes.

Rooted in the Kansas City jazz style but reflecting numerous other influences, *Generations* features Frank on piano and organ, Paul on string bass, guitar, drums, flute and electric piano, and Thomas on vibraphone. A true family undertaking, Thomas' sister Angela played flute on the song *Pickle Puss*, older brother William handled *Generations*' graphics and Paul's wife Lori came up with the cover design. The Hosford's were also joined by long-time friend Rich Hughes on trumpet & flugelhorn and Thomas' band director Whitney Paulson on violin.

Generations stands as a testament to this family's decades-long love of jazz. And though Frank is no longer here to be a part of his family's musical efforts, with his grandson Thomas' impressive debut on *Generations*, it's clear this family's rich musical legacy will be in good hands for generations to come.

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Generations *A Legacy of Jazz*

Artist Biographies

Frank Hosford (piano & organ) began learning the piano at age 5 in 1932, and by the time he was in high school he was known as “88 Keys Frank.” Frank served in the Navy during WWII where he played piano at night in officers' clubs with musicians from many places, helping him develop into an experienced and versatile jazz pianist.

Though Frank chose not to pursue music when he left the service, he kept up on trends in the jazz world and continued to develop as both a composer and a pianist, incorporating elements of Dave Brubeck, George Shearing, and even Lenny Tristano into his playing. Frank’s previous recordings include *Blues for George*, released in 2003, and *Yesterdays* - recorded while he was in a nursing home - released in 2013.

Paul Hosford (bass, drums, guitar, flute & electric piano) is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer. Paul and his wife Lori have operated a recording studio in Albion, NE, since 1986 and in 2002 started their own record label, Painted Heart Music, which has released 16 full-length CDs to date. Paul’s solo guitar CD, *Emergence*, was given five stars by *Jazz 2/Day* and his work with young musicians earned him the praise of jazz writer Nat Hentoff.

Thomas Hosford (vibraphone) started taking piano lessons – at his insistence – the day he turned five. In addition to the vibraphone Thomas also plays drums -- performing with jazz flutist Ali Ryerson when he was 15 -- bass guitar and ukulele. Thomas is currently a Junior at Boone Central High School in Albion, and is involved in music, speech, drama, quiz bowl, cross-country and track.

Guest Musicians

Rich Hughes (trumpet & flugelhorn) A graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE, Rich taught band for 37 years. During his years teaching Rich played on weekends with several bands, including seventeen years with the Bobby Lane Orchestra. Rich has previously appeared with Frank and Paul on the CDs *Blues for George* and *When I Fall In Love*.

Whitney Paulson (violin) received her Bachelor of Music Education degree with high distinction from Nebraska Wesleyan University and has been band director at Boone Central schools in Albion and Petersburg (NE) since 2007. She has since received Wesleyan’s Outstanding Young Music Alumni Award and the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award.

Angela Hosford (flute) recently graduated from college with a bachelor’s degree in business marketing and is helping with the promotional efforts for *Generations*.

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