

A Conversation

Woody Witt

Fred Hamilton

Ed Soph

1. Oddly Even
2. Clear Skies:
3. Ne As Jah
4. Empty Room
5. Barracuda
6. Forever and Always
7. Steppin'
8. 5 x 5

Woody Witt - tenor and soprano sax
Fred Hamilton - guitar, bass
Ed Soph - drums

Produced by Woody Witt
Executive producer, engineer, graphic design - Chris Cortez
Recorded on 9/8/07 at Blue Bamboo Music studio, Humble, Texas
All songs written by Woody Witt, Published by Woody Witt. BMI
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www.bluebamboomusic.com
www.woodywitt.com

Woody Witt plays Lebayle mouthpieces and is a Yamaha performing artist.
Fred Hamilton plays D'Addario strings and Schaefer guitars.
Ed Soph plays Yamaha drums, Zildjian cymbals, Evans drum heads, and endorses Innovative Percussion.
Cover photo - Mark Piszczek
Group Photo - Pin Lim, Forest Photography www.forestphotography.com

I wish to thank Chris and Melody Cortez for their belief in my music and providing me an opportunity to record with such a sympathetic trio. Special thanks to Fred and Ed for allowing me to share in their highly interactive playing and for bringing their musical insight to my compositions.

Also thanks to Pin Lim and Mark Piszczek for offering their photographic talents. As always I wish to thank my family, especially my wife Michelle, for their continued support of my artistic endeavors.

Woody Witt

I met Woody one night at a jam session soon after I arrived in Houston. I think I suggested a standard. Probably Stella. He launched into the most beautiful introduction, with his, now familiar massive tone, and blew me away from the first note. Since then we've played together quite a bit, and each time is just as thrilling as that first encounter.

He was a natural to be the first artist I approached to do a "non-Cortez" project for our label. He immediately had this wild idea to do a trio record with Ed Soph and Fred Hamilton. I couldn't be more pleased with the results.

When Fred is playing guitar, I do not miss the bass, and vice versa. His lyrical, delicate, and haunting approach to accompaniment is really a thing of great beauty, and his solos defy pattern playing. He bares his soul, and communicates with great depth of feeling. Always searching, always fascinating.

Ed Soph is the drummer's drummer. He orchestrates here with wisdom which seems to drip from every touch. The mark of a true artist is that the technique is never really in the front window. The emotional statement always takes center stage. So true of Ed's playing. The chops are there, in spades, but in support of the whole, and never about showing off.

Recording these gentlemen was a great honor for me. It was wonderful to watch three creative geniuses ply their trade, so well. So, in the moment. The entire date took place in one afternoon, after which, they went off to play another gig. I will treasure the memory, and here it is, for all to enjoy!

Chris Cortez
Blue Bamboo Music