

“French Fusion” – The Crossover Jazz of CLAUDE BOLLING – The Saint Michael Trio (with bass, guitar & drums) – Presentation Partners

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French musical legend Claude Bolling is known for his several crossover jazz suites for solo instruments plus jazz piano trio, which have involved such soloists as Yo-Yo Ma and Jean-Pierre Rampal. The Saint Michael Trio consists of Daniel Cher on violin, Michael Flexer on cello and Russell Hancock on piano, and for this CD they were expanded to sextet size by a second trio of musicians. All three of the trio members have professional careers unrelated to their music. For example, Daniel Cher is by day a medical doctor (St. Michael is the patron saint of physicians), and pianist Russell Hancock is president and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network. They are all based in the Silicon Valley area.

They have taken Bolling’s material and converted it slightly to fit their three instruments plus the additional trio. David Benoit, in his note booklet, refers to the result as “a Frenchified style of California cooking.” The nine selections are taken from Bolling’s *Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano*, his *Picnic Suite* and two from his *Suite for Cello and Jazz Piano Trio*. Balancing their two lives doesn’t come easy for the members of the trio but they say they do it because they have to. Even if you have the Bolling originals I think you’ll also like this CD.

TrackList:

Baroque & Blue, Sentimentale, Galop, Tendre, Badine, Irlandaise, JAvanaise, Romantique, Veloce