



The Clayton Brothers

Quotes

"A unique depth of feeling to their music, a communion between John's bass, Jeff's alto, the colorful rhythm section featuring Bill Cunliffe and his appealing piano voicings and the sensitivity and sizzle of Jeff Hamilton's seasoned drums."

— Jazz Times

"He (John Clayton) is nothing short of amazing. Between composing, arranging, and conducting as well as being a superb bass player in both jazz and symphonic idioms, who knows where his talent ends?"

— Johnny Mandel

(On Cunliffe) "...you won't be able to stop your feet from tapping."

— The Los Angeles Times

(On Hamilton) "...most driving and technically accomplished drummer."

— Jazz Journal International

John and Jeff Clayton prove conclusively, that while blood may be thicker than water, it can also carry an unimpeded flow of pure creativity. The Clayton Brothers Quartet, with sometimes special guest Terrill Stafford, was founded in 1977, and while their paths sometimes diverge, the brothers share a common musical vision that never fails to ignite the audience.

Their 2000 release, *Siblingcity* (Qwest Records), bristles with surprises, delights, and the kind of musical telepathy that could only come from tuned-in siblings who know how to swing.

In 1998, John Clayton assumed the position of Artistic Director of Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A three-time Grammy® nominated artist, John has gained prominence as a bassist in both jazz and classical music. His serious study of bass began at age 16 under the tutelage of Ray Brown. He held the principal bass position in the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra for more than five years. He is a composer/arranger/conductor, who counts among his mentors Robert Farnon, Count Basie, Johnny Mandel, and Quincy Jones. He has written and arranged for Dee Dee Bridgewater, Natalie Cole, Milt Jackson, and Quincy Jones, among many others.

Reed player Jeff Clayton began his career as a touring artist and studio musician. He recorded important albums with, among others, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Kenny Rodgers, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, McCoy Tyner, and more.

Rounding out the Quartet is Jeff Hamilton on drums, and Bill Cunliffe on piano. Jeff Hamilton co-leads the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra with John and Jeff. He spent nine years with Ray Brown's trio and has performed with Oscar Peterson, Monty Alexander, and the WDR Big Band. He also leads and records with his own band. Bill Cunliffe, winner of the Thelonious Monk Competition, plays with *"rhythmic vitality and melodic whammy"* according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

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