

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT

Local Jazz Musician Steps "Out On The Town" with New CD

By Don Bedell

Local Guitarist Stacy Glen Tibbetts has released a new CD for lovers of traditional swing and classic musical theater. It's entitled *Out On The Town* and it is a who's who of local talent.

Like many, Tibbetts came to State College to attend Penn State and ended up falling in love with the area and making Centre County his home. He says he's thankful for the experience he had studying music at Penn State. "I'm very indebted to people I've studied with," says Tibbetts. "I'm grateful to people like Dan Yoder."

Tibbetts says he had great training at Penn State and is delighted to see the music and music theater programs at Penn State doing so well. "It's been an incredible thing for the local arts scene and my hat is off to them."

Tibbetts has been a musician since he was young and started writing songs when he was 15. A stretch of time in his musical background was in the early-1990s, when he played four nights a week in the local State College bar scene. He's still in contact with many of those musicians that he played with at that time like Kate Twoey (now a member of Pure Cane Sugar). Tibbetts then left State College for Boston and it was there that he became interested in musical theater. It was also in Boston that he realized that he needed to find his niche.

"When I was performing as a singer/songwriter [in Boston], I realized that there were so many people doing it that I had to focus on what I could do that very few other people could do. And, that was write and compose."

Out On The Town is targeting a "niche" market – those who enjoy traditional swing and musical theater. There are songs included on the CD that are part of a musical entitled *Dialing For Donna* that Tibbetts is working on with playwright Pam Monk. They produced the musical locally as well as an equity reading in New York City. They are currently in the process of raising money for a production of it in New York. "The expenses are tremendous," says Tibbetts. "But so is our idealism. (laughs)"

Featured on *Out On The Town* are many local musicians like Rick Hirsch. Featured vocalist on many of the tracks on the CD is State College native Catherine Dupuis who is now a jazz vocalist in New York City. Tibbetts admits that it may have been a chance meeting with Dupuis that inspired this CD.

"I was lucky enough to have a few of my songs produced in New York for a group that collects sheet music." When he went to New York to perform, Dupuis contacted

him to congratulate him. During that conversation, Tibbetts asked her if she would be interested in working on a CD. Tibbetts says, "Her rhythmic abilities are what set her apart from other vocalists. She has a good ear and is very, very down to earth." Tibbetts went on to say that Dupuis was a total pro in the studio.

The CD was recorded at Data Music Services in Altoona and engineered by Dave Villani. Tibbetts was pleased with the experience of working with Villani. "He's always being contracted to do work in the Altoona area in theater produc-

tions as a pianist. [He's got] good ears! A good musician!"

He says that they had to make a lot of decisions "on the fly" during the recording of the CD and feels that he was "very lucky to work with him."

The CD is available locally at Webster's Bookstore, Sugar On Top, and the Music Mart. It's also available online at CDBaby.com, and for download at Amazon.com and iTunes.com.

Up next for Tibbetts is a performance in a cabaret review in State College on January 22, as well as serving as musical director and co-producer. It is Pam Monk's *Forbidden Valley* review where she satirizes local events. And, on February 3, Tibbetts will perform at 7 p.m. at Schlow Library as part of Downtown State College's First Thursday series.

To find out more about Stacy Glen Tibbetts, you can visit his Web site at www.stacyglen.com.

