



## Press Release

### Laurence Hobgood

*feat guests Charlie Haden & Kurt Elling*

### When The Heart Dances

naimcd112 (released April 27 2009)

**Introducing Naim Jazz the exciting new imprint from renowned hi fi manufacturers and superlative audio and jazz label Naim.**

Expert pianist, composer and arranger **Laurence Hobgood** has long been a great friend of Naim. In the 90s he recorded two highly acclaimed albums for Naim in the group **Union**, and a further two as a solo artist, *Left To Own Devices* (2000) and *Crazy World* (2005) with the **Laurence Hobgood Trio**.

Described by **Dave Brubeck** as "one of the most incredible pianists I have ever heard", Hobgood has been directing Kurt Elling's Blue Note (and now Concord) recordings for fifteen years and has accrued his very own Grammy Nomination for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying A Vocal Performance for his work on Elling's *Flirting With Twilight* (2001).

Everybody who witnesses the Laurence Hobgood Trio supporting Kurt Elling live, agree, that Laurence Hobgood is the single most under-rated and ridiculously talented US jazz musician of his generation. [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com) described Hobgood as "one of the finest pianists out there. Period."

Long regarded as one of the worlds' greatest living bass players, **Charlie Haden**, now in his 72<sup>nd</sup> year, was a great admirer of Hobgood's early work for Naim. It was True Stereo engineer and mutual friend **Ken Christianson**, who proved matchmaker for this stunning pair-off. Haden, whose renowned audiophile duo recordings for Naim provide respite from his arduous touring and recording schedule for Universal, first made a name from himself in the late fifties with the forward-thinking, and at the time revolutionary, quartet alongside **Ornette Coleman** and then in the sixties as part of **Keith Jarrett's Trio** and **American Quartet**. In the seventies Haden formed the **Liberation Music Orchestra**, a spirited politically minded free-jazz band that concentrated much of their ideas on the Spanish Civil War. Throughout the eighties and nineties Haden has worked with all manner of musicians both in the jazz world and beyond achieving massive critical acclaim both for his collaboration with guitarist **Pat Metheny** ("Beyond The Missouri Sky") and with his own band he formed in the late eighties, **Quartet West**.

A great friend and musical companion to Hobgood, the pre-eminent male jazz singer of his generation **Kurt Elling** agreed to make a boundless contribution to *When The Heart Dances*, by adding vocals on three tracks; *First Song*, *Stairway To The Stars* and *Daydream*. Elling, who now records for Concord/Universal, has a rich baritone voice spans four octaves and displays astonishing technical facility and emotional depth. He has now accumulated seven Grammy Award nominations.

Safe to say, the culmination of such great musicians is a moment to remember in the recorded history of Naim.

Learn more about Laurence Hobgood: <http://www.allaboutjazz.com/iviews/lhobgood.htm>  
<http://kurtelling.com/hobgood.html>

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