



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Saxophonist **Walt Weiskopf** has come into his own as an exceptional small group leader, composer and featured instrumentalist. His CD's, *Exact Science* and *Mindwalking* (Iris Records), received unanimous critical acclaim. *Jazz Times Magazine* said, "The music presented in this collection is rhythmically and harmonically innovative. . . introspective and sometimes haunting, but always fresh and swinging." *Cadence* called it "a very auspicious debut"; and *Jazziz* remarked that it "explodes with intriguing ideas." His latest recording, *Simplicity*, was released in October of 1993. After finishing a degree at the Eastman School of Music, Walt moved to New York in 1980 and joined the Buddy Rich Band in 1981. In 1983 he began his association with pianist/composer Toshiko Akiyoshi. He has received performance grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1989 and 1991. In addition to his own group, he performs with the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra, the Toshiko Akiyoshi Quintet, the Renee Rosnes quartet and quintet, the Elliot Zigmund quartet and the Roland Vazquez Band. Walt has been a member of the Frank Sinatra Orchestra since 1991.

Ramon Ricker is Professor of Saxophone and Chairman of the Wind, Brass and Percussion Department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Throughout his performing career he has maintained a dual role as clarinetist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and as a guest saxophone soloist/clinician in high schools and colleges throughout North America and Europe. His books on jazz improvisation, saxophone technique and many of his compositions for jazz ensemble, studio orchestra and wind ensemble have become standards in the field. He has been honored with grants in both jazz composition and performance, including two National Endowment Fellowship Grants, two New York State Grants and three ASCAP Awards. In addition to his own personal success, Ray counts among his greatest rewards the accomplishments of his former students who have gone on to develop meaningful and successful careers in music.