

WALT WAGNER

Variety (Harrah's Reno, with Sammy Davis Jr.): "An outstanding talent, Wagner earned enthusiastic encores with brilliant improvising."

Portland Oregonian: "There are not many pianists with whom he can be compared. There are touches of wizardry that remind of jazz and rock, yet he has the technical fluidity of a classical craftsman. There is a charisma about him that generated a standing ovation with the audience yelling for more."

Spokane Spokesman-Review: "Not only is Wagner an extraordinary player, but the easygoing wit and confident delivery of his spoken introductions make him the antithesis of the rotten-brat style of many performers. It's a pleasure to hear him play and watch him work."

St. Louis Globe-Democrat (with Bill Cosby): "One fine performer who knows his keyboard and displays a formidable technique."

Bellevue Daily Journal-American (with Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra): "Wagner was back by popular demand and drew a sellout crowd."

CAREER

PERFORMANCE

Walt Wagner has performed with Jay Leno, Bill Cosby, Bob Hope, George Burns, Lily Tomlin, Roberta Flack, Sammy Davis, Jr., Bob Newhart, and as pianist-conductor with Peggy Lee. He toured internationally with Peggy Fleming in "A Concert On Ice", and has performed extensively at Sun Valley, Idaho. He was featured for two years at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at University of Idaho, and performed the opening pair of concerts in a new UI series, "Four Seasons of Jazz".

TELEVISION

Wagner's guest appearances include The Tonight Show, Merv Griffin, and an Andy Williams & Peggy Fleming special at Madison Square Garden.

COMPOSING

Walt fulfilled a commission from Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra (Music Director, Adam Stern) to compose a fanfare for the opening of the final 2004-05 season concert. He premiered his composition, "Rhythms - for Piano, Winds & Percussion", performing as soloist with the Washington Wind Symphony, conducted by Gene Aitken. Another commission was a piano concerto, "The Miracle - for Piano & Orchestra", which was recorded with Gerard Schwarz conducting The Seattle Symphony Orchestra, again with Wagner as soloist (see below). He also writes his own arrangements and orchestrations for "pops"-style concerts with symphony orchestras.

RECORDINGS

Walt Wagner's newest CD release is IN THE PINK — Music of Pink Floyd. A new single, CHARIOTS OF FIRE (Semaphone #79315), is a powerful interpretation of Vangelis' beloved theme — the most requested music that Walt has ever performed. Released in 2005 is SPIRIT (Semaphone #79314), a Christmas collection of European and American traditional carols. PEARLS, VOLUME 1 (Semaphone #79313) is a solo-piano collection of jazz and pop tunes, displaying Walt's expansive blend of improvisation and respect for the composers' original intent. Other CDs in the Walt Wagner catalog include: THE MIRACLE - FOR PIANO & ORCHESTRA/ RHYTHMS - FOR PIANO, WINDS & PERCUSSION (Semaphone #79312), with Wagner as composer/soloist and Gerard Schwarz conducting The Seattle Symphony Orchestra; and EVEN THERE (Semaphone #70022), a collection of hymns, produced and arranged by Wagner for piano, string quartet, African drums and guitar, featuring the gifted vocalist Sue Nixon. (Please see Walt's home page for information on recordings currently in production.)