

“A trio of musicians playing an eclectic array of jazz standards and original compositions with a fervor and musicianship that would be extraordinary anywhere.” - Epitonic



Photos: : Patrick Hinely

Boling, Brown & Holloway

Mark Boling (guitar), Keith Brown (drums), and Rusty Holloway (bass) have played music together since the mid- 1980s, soon after they began teaching jazz at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The trio first played together in the band “Rust,” performing rhythm and blues, rock and pop throughout the region.

Over the years the three have played together in a variety of styles — New Orleans, blues, rock, funk, free, fusion, mainstream, and big band. They have worked regularly with musicians Donald Brown, Gregory Tardy, Zim Nggawana, Bill Scarlett, Vance Thompson, Jack Coker, and Jerry Coker. They have worked together in larger musical organizations such as the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Trio members have been on the faculty of various summer jazz workshops such as the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Brubeck Institute, The Berklee College Summer Guitar Program, Kaufman Akoustic Music Kamp and the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camps. Boling is author of *The Jazz Theory Workbook (Advance Music)*, *Creative Comping Concepts for Jazz Guitar (Mel Bay)*. In the course of their teaching, they often coach student ensembles together and perform with visiting artists. This shared wealth of experience influences their ongoing musical conversation. Over the years the Boling, Brown & Holloway trio has honed a repertoire of original music and standards with roots in the sound of the great guitar trios led by Wes Montgomery, Kenny Burrell, Jim Hall, John Scofield and Pat Metheny.

With their latest studio album, *Trio Life* (on the MaBo Music label) Boling, Brown & Holloway document a musical journey of several decades. On this recording, the trio plays original compositions

“Who would expect an explorative Knoxville jazz group to record an album that equals or surpasses in many respects those of major labels?” - Cadence Magazine, 2004



by guitarist Mark Boling along with jazz standards, Wayne Shorter and Horace Silver tunes, and a Norah Jones cover. This eclectic mix has been slowly distilled in their hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee to produce a sound described in the press as "honest," "polished," and "explorative."

WORKSHOPS & CLINICS

Boling, Brown and Holloway have coached student groups together for years at The University of Tennessee. Recently they have begun to take their "triple team" master class on the road to other institutions. Due to their experience working together as performers in small ensembles and big bands, the trio is particularly effective in working with rhythm sections. Brown's years of experience directing the UT Big Band plus Holloway's experience directing the UT Studio Orchestra give the trio the experience and perspective for working with any jazz ensemble. Here are some of the topics that may be addressed in a Boling, Brown & Holloway masterclass:

- Jazz Theory: Voice-leading for Improvisors
- Forward Motion: Building a Bass Line
- Creative Contemporary Comping Concepts
- Points of Arrival: Improvising and Comping on Song Forms
- Playing Together: Rhythm Section Mechanics
- Conversational Improvisation
- Developing a Practice Plan for Improvisation
- The Power of Limits in Developing Flexibility for Improvisation

Mark Boling has previously released two albums as a bandleader featuring the trio. Evidence, the first release, was featured on the syndicated Jazz South radio program in 2002, as an "Outstanding Recording by a Southern Artist." Tune Me (MaBo Music) Boling's second recording as a leader, features nine of his original compositions and spotlights the trio, with guests Donald Brown, Zim Ngqawana, and Carlos Fernandez.

The trio often plays with visiting musicians on recordings and concerts, resulting in collaborations such as recordings with the East Coast Standards Time Band (Impressions on the Altrue label) and the late South African saxophonist Zim Ngqawana (Zimology in Concert USA on the Sheer Sound label). In May 2009, Zimology won the South African Music Award (SAMA) in the "Best Traditional Jazz" category. Boling, Brown & Holloway have also worked together for over ten years in the rhythm section of the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, performing concerts and recording with a long line of visiting jazz artists that includes some of the best-known names in the jazz world.

Recent notable Boling, Brown & Holloway performances include Jazz Festivals in California and Japan, as well as concerts and master classes at universities in Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. In addition, the trio is a significant force in the vibrant local jazz scene, performing every Thursday in Knoxville at the renowned Baker Peter's Jazz Club for over 14 years.