

**Alto Saxophonist Jim Snidero Celebrates His 20th Recording as a**

**Leader with *MD66*, Inspired by Miles Davis’ Second Great Quintet,  
Scheduled for Release on August 26, 2016 on Savant Records**

*Originals and a new treatment of “Blue in Green,” MD66 Culminates in the spirit of*

*Miles Davis’ music and an Exercise in Musical Interaction and Experimentation*

Over the course of a career lasting more than 35 years, **Jim Snidero** has established his reputation as a leader both on the bandstand and as an influential author of jazz education books. A pioneer in music education technology, with his venture **The Jazz Conception Company** (TJCC), the release of ***MD66*** only affirms the alto saxophonist’s role as an important and evolving jazz artist.

*MD66* is scheduled for release on **August 26** on **Savant Records**, marking Snidero’s 20th album as a leader and sixth release for Savant. The album celebrates 50 years since the heyday of the second great Miles Davis Quintet (with Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter and Tony Williams). Snidero remarks on how Davis was “a critical beacon for being a great leader. He had a gift for hiring musicians who best fit his evolving vision, often inspiring them to create innovative music.”

Consisting primarily of Snidero’s original compositions, along with a piece by pianist **Andy Laverne** and Davis’ immortal **“Blue in Green,”** the music on *MD66* came about as a result of Snidero’s careful attention to the musical interplay between the members of Davis’ second great quintet. “That band is at the very top of the ladder of any kind of music that I’ve ever listened to,” says Snidero. Assembling his own stellar band consisting of trumpeter **Alex Sipiagin**, pianist **Andy Laverne**, bassist **Ugonna Okegwo** and drummer **Rudy Royston**, Snidero sought to explore his own music while conveying the same sense of intimacy demonstrated by Davis’ second quintet.

While the musicians on Snidero’s record are no strangers to each other, *MD66* marks the first time they have all collaborated as a unit. Their performance on the album benefited immeasurably by the opportunity for live performance prior to recording. “If a band hasn’t had enough time to get comfortable with the way they play together, the music can come off a bit too careful.” But Snidero notes that “nothing on this record sounds like that."

*MD66* finds Snidero continuing to explore new territory, including “Free Beauty,” his first venture into freely improvised music. Snidero considers his solo on “Recursion,” which incorporates late-period John Coltraneconcepts in a personal way, to be his best to date. The solo is an exceptional balance of contours, range, consonance and dissonance, and sounds deeply inspired and authentic.

Snidero’s performance history and critically-acclaimed catalogue has found him playing alongside some of the greatest names in modern jazz, including Dave Holland, Jack DeJohnette, Mulgrew Miller, Tom Harrell, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Benny Green and Billy Hart, though Snidero brings the same passion to his efforts in the fields of music technology and education.   
  
This year marks two decades since Snidero’s publication of the first volume of his influential ***Jazz Conception***series, which led to Snidero becoming the best-selling author of jazz education material of his generation. His innovations in the world of digital learning with TJCC, which integrates video lessons, audio tracks and sheet music into courses, has attracted individual users in 59 countries and music programs nationwide.

These simultaneous endeavors in performance and education cast a spotlight on the wide scope of Snidero’s vision as a master musician, best-selling author and educator, and technology entrepreneur. "It makes a huge difference when you've spent years in the trenches in New York working hard to create lasting music,” he says. “That kind of experience is essential when it comes to creating enduring works in education, too. I'm equally proud of both.”

**For more information on** [**Jim Snidero**](http://www.jimsnidero.com/)**, contact Matt Merewitz or Juliana Todeschi at** [**Fully Altered Media**](http://fullyaltered.com/fa/) **(Email** [**matt@fullyaltered.com**](mailto:matt@fullyaltered.com) **or** [**juliana@fullyaltered.com**](mailto:juliana@fullyaltered.com) **or call 347-384-2839).**