

# Quinby disc rates ★★★★★; Bennett duets, ugh!

*Continued from page 10*

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By George Fendel

**Duets – An American Classic, Tony Bennett, Vocals.** By the time Frank Sinatra released his duet albums, he was so past his prime that it made little difference. But Bennett, at age 80, can still sing. So why must he find it necessary to include Elvis Costello, Celine Dion, The Dixie Chicks, Elton John, Paul McCartney and Sting (among even more) to pollute what could have been a rewarding CD. As of this writing, they're even running ads for this dud on television. What does that tell you about the taste of the average American? Alas, the uphill battle is always a tough one. **RPM/Columbia. 2006; time not indicated, ★ 1/2**

**Beautiful Bones, Jack Quinby, leader trombone.** Dundee resident and tenor horn man Jack Quinby has thrown all the ingredients into the stew, and the result is an enjoyable CD loaded with Portland-based artists. Just a few include Rich Cooper, Paul Mazzio, Stan Bock, Jeff Uusitalo, Warren Rand, George Mitchell, and on a couple of vocals, Ms. Shirley Nanette. The tunes run the gamut from pop things (Green Onions) to standards (Summertime); from jazz fare (Caravan) to Broadway (Maybe This Time). There are 16 in all, with a few standout originals by Quinby himself. A nice bonus here is the guest appearance of trombonist Bill Watrous on The Shadow Of Your Smile. **Self-produced recording, 2006; Time not indicated, ★★★★★.**

**The Phat Pack, Gordon Goodwin, leader; The Big Phat Band.** I don't get it on the word "phat", but that aside, with the exception of one tune with David Sanborn's screechy saxophone, this band has the enthusiasm of, say, one of Rob McConnell's bands. Lotsa fire, some good arrangements, and Diana Reeves as guest singer on Too Close For Comfort, Eddie Daniels on Under The Wire and the vocal group Take 6 on the Sinatra opus, It Was A Very Good Year. The Sanborn fiasco hurts as do a few other tunes using the funk beat of the electric bass. Sometimes it's not wise to try to be everything to everyone. **Immergent Records, 2006; Playing Time: Not indicated, ★★ 1/2.**