



Becky Kilgore • Eddie Erickson • Dan Barrett • Joel Forbes



Three Guys, a Gal, and Their Music...

Just what is all the hoopla about this new band called BED? What's up with that goofy name? Well, we'll get to that...

BED is an exciting new quartet that's causing quite a stir in today's jazz and cabaret world. Vocalist Rebecca Kilgore (a.k.a. "Becky"), from Portland, Oregon, is dedicated to preserving what has been called "The Great American Song Book." That is, those special songs composed in the Golden Era of American songwriting by masters like George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and Rodgers and Hart (and Hammerstein, too). Becky's way of "preserving" these songs isn't to trap them in amber. Rather, she breathes new life into each selection with her casually swinging phrasing, impeccable intonation, and above all, the sheer beauty of her voice.

These very qualities have made her a frequent guest on several National Public Radio shows, including: Terry Gross's *Fresh Air*, Jim Cullum's *Riverwalk*, *Live from the Landing*, and Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. Becky's starlit voice can also be heard on many recordings, with colleagues like composer/pianist Dave Frishberg and guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli. In fact, no less a swing era master than Mr. Pizzarelli himself once said, "if Benny Goodman had only heard Rebecca, she would have been singing with him, period."

Story continues on the next page...



BED has played all over the world to wildly appreciative audiences – from concert halls to festivals to intimate clubs and cruises. BED is just as much at home in a cozy restaurant as in a huge hall. Here are some of those places, from New Jersey to Switzerland, where BED has made everyone swing and have fun:

Breda Jazz Festival, Holland • Blackpool Swinging Jazz Party, England* • Caribbean cruise aboard the Radisson Seven Seas *Navigator* • Collaboration Jazz Party, Midland/Odessa, TX* • Concorde Club, England* • Dixieland Monterey, CA* • Edinburgh Jazz Festival, Scotland • Elkhart Jazz Festival, Indiana* • Gainesville Friends of Jazz & Blues, FL* • Norris Center, Palos Verdes, CA • March of Jazz event, Clearwater Beach, FL* • McMenamini's Kennedy School Stage, Portland, OR • Mississippi River New Year's Cruise aboard the *American Queen* (Jazzdagen Tours)* • Music in the Mountains concert series, Nevada City, CA* • Nairn Jazz Festival, Scotland • New Jersey Jazz Festival, Edison, NJ • New Orleans Jazz Ascona, Switzerland* • Oslo Jazz Festival, Norway* • Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, Sacramento, CA* • Shanghai Jazz Restaurant, Madison, NJ • South America cruise aboard Holland America's *MS Amsterdam* (Jazzdagen Tours) • Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic, Clearwater Beach, FL* • Sweet and Hot Music Festival, Los Angeles, CA*

** Invited back by popular demand.*

"BED CDs will be filed under 'Jazz' in the local music emporium, and they belong there, but they will also make friends in the larger world beyond. Play *Little White Lies* or *Thanks for the Memory* for someone who has made it plain that he 'does not like jazz' and it will evoke a warm response. Yes, this band has been acclaimed at jazz festivals, but it requires no stretch of the imagination to see them on PBS, in Carnegie Hall or at the Algonquin Hotel. The world needs BED, even if they haven't awakened to the fact quite yet."

Michael Steinman, jazz writer for *The Mississippi Rag* and *Cadence*

Speaking of Mr. Goodman, BED includes an alumnus of the Benny Goodman Orchestra: While living in New York City in the 1980's, Dan Barrett played lead trombone and was a featured soloist in that great clarinetist's last band. Dan can also be heard on numerous movie soundtracks, including *Cotton Club*, and more recently, *The Sleepy Time Gal* (for which Dan composed Sleepy Time, performed by BED on that film's soundtrack). Dan's trombone also graces the soundtracks of several of Woody Allen's films. When Mr. Allen took a jazz band to Europe in 1996, Dan was tapped to play trombone. Dan can be heard and seen on screen in the critically acclaimed documentary of that tour, *Wild Man Blues*. Now based in Southern California, Dan brings to BED a special regard for melody and swing. (He's also an eloquent cornetist, a low-key singer, and a secret pianist.) The warm, mellow sound of his horn is a perfect foil for Rebecca's own warm voice.

No band should be without its loose cannon, and Eddie Erickson, from Pacific Grove, California, certainly qualifies for that title! A talented guitarist

and vocalist, Eddie also delights audiences with his virtuoso work on the plectrum banjo. The banjo, long maligned by more "sophisticated" jazz fans, becomes, in Eddie's hands, an instrument of singular musical expression and joy. Eddie is also acknowledged to be one of the finest vocalists singing today; Rebecca Kilgore often introduces Eddie as her own "favorite singer." Eddie's natural, humorous stage manner was honed in the long-running hit show, *The Class of '27*, at Disneyland and later, while leading his own groups at Disney World in Orlando. After the release of his first CD, Eddie became a regular on the "jazz party" circuit, appearing all over the United States and at major festivals throughout Europe. His charisma and good-natured humor (both on and off the stage) make Eddie a favorite wherever he goes.

The dynamic bass playing of New Yorker Joel Forbes is the musical box spring upon which BED rests. (Yes, folks; there are many BED jokes. This has

been just one of them). Joel has traveled the world playing his strong, swinging bass for jazz greats like Jon Hendricks, Harry Allen, and Marian McPartland. Joel brings depth and rhythm to BED, and he's a brilliant, lyrical soloist as well. Also remarkable--in this electronic day and age--Joel chooses to play unamplified, which accounts for his rich, natural bass sound. Joel can fill a room with his big sound acoustically.

We promised to tell you about the admittedly goofy name, BED. Very simply, it's the acronym formed by Becky, Eddie, and Dan. Sure, Joel is an equally important member of the band, but trying to squeeze a 'J' into BED is well nigh *impossible*. To see this foursome in action is something to behold. Their interaction can be alternately delightful or catch-your-breath exciting, and the sheer joy they feel performing with each other is obvious to everyone. BED has been described as "chamber jazz at its best," but even that lofty praise doesn't prepare one for their singular repertoire: a perfect mix of great familiar songs and equally great off-beat tunes, even with a

"Western Swing" number thrown in now and then for good measure. They enjoy it all, from the funny and hip to the unabashedly blue and sentimental. Evenings don't go by any faster than when Becky is singing, Dan is playing muted trombone, Eddie is harmonizing, and Joel is stolidly anchoring it all with his solidly swinging bass.

A well-intentioned interviewer once asked Becky what her "goal in life" might be. Her reply instantly became the band's credo: "To Swing and Have Fun." We're sure that once you see these four friends and talented artists take the stage, you'll be swinging and having fun right along with them.

For information about booking this unique group for your own special event, please contact:
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To learn more about BED, please visit their website at: www.BEDjazz.com



"Four of my favourite contemporary jazz musicians, combining to produce great music, swinging sounds, wit and wisdom...what more could anyone want? Becky, Eddie, Dan, and Joel have developed a wonderful rapport that makes their music irresistible and their stage presence a source of constant joy - and fun. As Samuel Pepys was wont to end the daily entries in his famous diary: '...and so, to bed.' And so, indeed, to BED. I'm sure that, were he alive today, the old rogue would happily have swung to - and with - these four. They're not to be missed."

Sir Mike Knight: Brit jazz addict and BED-mate

"Anybody who thinks real jazz can't be entertaining hasn't checked out BED. This high-powered quartet delivers an extraordinary variety of tunes in many styles from across four or five decades of jazz history. They are cool people who play hot music. They all play their instruments as if there were no tomorrow; they all sing; they swing all the time; they enjoy what they are doing and it takes a really stodgy audience not to get down and enjoy it too. They don't really need it, but more power to them!"

Jim Leigh, West Coast correspondent for *The Mississippi Rag* and author of *Heaven on the Side: A Jazz Life*

