

ALEX NORRIS



Trumpet, Composer, Arranger

Alexander 'Pope' Norris is one of New York's city's most acclaimed and sought after musicians. Alex recently returned to the states following stints with Avis-hai Cohen's International Vamp Band and Lonnie Plaxico. He has worked with the Mingus Dynasty Big Band, the Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and Maria Schnieder's Jazz Orchestra. Alex is currently also a member of Manny Oquendo's Cojunto LIBRE (Andy Gonzalez musical director and bass) and he appears as a featured soloist on their latest release. He has been featured with Betty Carter, "Patato" Valdez, Andy Gonzalez, Carl Allen, Ray Bryant, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Joshua Redman, Kenny Wheeler and Slide Hampton. Toured and recorded with Incognito, Us3, and Steve Winwood. Alex is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music 1990 and holds a masters degree in jazz studies from the Manhattan School of Music. He has served as an instructor at the Manhattan School and the The New School Jazz Program. In addition, he performs all over the world with the renown timbalero Ralph Irizarry & Timbalaye. He can also be heard leading his own group at many clubs throughout the U.S. Look for Alex's debut recording as a leader on the Fresh Sounds record label.

Discography

ALEX NORRIS QUINTET – A New Beginning – FRESH SOUNDS 2000

LONNIE PLAXICO – Live at the 5:01 Jazz Bar – PLAXMUSIC 2002

MANNY OQUENDO y Cojunto Libre– Los New Yorkinos! – MILESTONE 2000

AVI LEBOVICH – Constant Chase – FRESH SOUNDS 2001

RALPH IRIZARRY &TIMBALAYE – Best Kept Secret – SHANACHIE 2000

JASON LINDNER Big Band - Jazz Underground Live at Small's –IMPULSE 1997

JASON LINDNER Big Band - Premonition – STRETCH 2000

US3 – Broadway & 52nd – BLUE NOTE 1997

INCOGNITO – Beneath the Surface – VERVE 1996

INCOGNITO - Last Night in Tokyo – Talkin' Loud VERVE 1997

RUMBA CLUB – Radio Mundo - PALMETTO 2001

RUMBA CLUB - Espiritista - PALMETTO 1999

RUMBA CLUB - Mamacita! – PALMETTO 1997 RUMBA CLUB - Mamacita! - PALMETTO 1997

IRA SULLIVAN



Hyperbole surrounds Ira Sullivan. It is evident in his music and in his life. "Pure lyric", "Fire", "Formidable", "Complex", "Ornate", "Unparalleled", "Haunting" or more simply, "Legend". Legends are the stuff of dreams; that's why they are called legends--as if to state that something is not possible even when it is beheld.

Sullivan is called a musical genius but some say that this is an understatement. Now this is legendary--to call genius an understatement. Others cite his ability to pick up a strange instrument and within few days to play it the way others do who have been playing it for years. World-class multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan plays trumpet, flugelhorn, peckhorn, tenor, alto, and soprano saxes, flute and an occasional round of drums, all of them impeccably and not as a gimmick. He is a master of almost the entire range of brass and reed instruments. He has appeared as guest soloist with some of the best bands in recent decades--is known for his ability to come in cold and turn in a stellar performance.

He is widely recorded, his releases heard everywhere jazz is heard. He tours extensively on the international jazz circuit and is a clinician, lecturer and adjudicator in jazz workshops at universities and high school programs everywhere (He initiated the "History of Jazz" school programs in 1960, now widely appreciated by many)

A five time Grammy nominee, he also serves as panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts. Music, he feels, is of the spirit and says, "Everything spiritual comes from God". He brings his music to worship services everywhere and for years now has ended every performance with the venerated old hymn, "Amazing Grace". "People miss it if I omit it now", he says. Indeed, the hymn has enjoyed a renaissance over latter years. Many play it now. An Olympic skater used it for her contextual ice-dance accompaniment; it was the Benedictine hymn used to bury the character Spock, in a 'Star Trek' movie; is indeed, the title of another movie; and recently, a lively arsenal of sax players played it on a popular late-night talk show. The Spirit does get around and that's as it should be

VALERIA PROANO



Valeria Proano was born in Quito Ecuador. At the age 15 she started performing in clubs and recording radio commercials. When she graduated high school she decided to move to Miami to pursue her life passion which is music.

Valeria studied at the internationally recognized School of Music at the University of Miami, where she was a scholarship recipient(Including two from the Grammy Award Winner Jon Secada).

In 2002 Ms. Proano a Downbeat Music Award Winner, earned a bachelors in studio music and jazz vocal performance at University of Miami.

Valeria is a “ musician’s vocalist” who is not just a singer but an integral part of the band. She successfully lead her group for two European tours and has been performing for the past 11 years for audiences in Ecuador and the U.S Having recorded many commercial jingles Ms. Proano feels as comfortable in the studio as she does on stage.

“ Music brings people together. It has lead me to a never-ending experience to better understand not only myself but other people”

Ms. Proano has the sound and presence of a seasoned veteran in her smooth, sultry and unmistakably original voice. The young and sassy songstress blends a myriad of musical influences ranging from samba to salsa, bossa to jazz, and entices the musical taste buds of every listener.

John Fedchock



trombonist

John Fedchock established his career as a jazz trombonist in 1980 when he joined the legendary Woody Herman Orchestra. He toured with Woody's "Thundering Herd" for seven years, during which time he was musical director and a featured soloist. He also served as musical coordinator and chief arranger in the production of Herman's last two Grammy Award nominated albums "50th Anniversary Tour" and "Woody's Gold Star", and received critical acclaim from jazz journalists world-wide. Famed jazz critic Leonard Feather called him the "unsung hero" of Woody's 50th Anniversary Tour album and Woody said of Fedchock, "He's my right hand man. Everything I ask of John he accomplishes, and I ask a lot. He's a major talent." DOWN BEAT magazine stated that "it was the young blood of musicians like Fedchock that helped keep Woody Herman's last years musically healthy and growing". Fedchock still maintains a close association with the Herman orchestra, performing with the group on occasion and continuing to add his own compositions and arrangements to the band's library.

Now an active performer and arranger in New York City, Fedchock leads his New York Big Band, a 16-piece group comprised of alumni from major big bands and stars from New York's jazz scene. Their debut recording, "New York Big Band" (Reservoir),

along with follow-up CD, "On The Edge" (also Reservoir), received high praise from critics, including 4 1/2 star reviews in DOWNBEAT magazine and the appearance of both recordings in DOWNBEAT's list of "Best CDs Of The 90's". The success of the band also resulted in Fedchock's name appearing in DOWNBEAT's Readers Poll under the categories of Trombone, Arranger and Big Band, simultaneously for several consecutive years. His small-group project for Reservoir, "Hit The Bricks", is a session with his own quartet and special guests, and was included in DOWNBEAT's list of "Best CDs of 2000." In recognition of his formidable arranging skills on his New York Big Band's heralded third release "No Nonsense" (Reservoir), Fedchock was honored by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences with a 2003 Grammy Award nomination for "Best Instrumental Arrangement" for his exciting chart on "Caribbean Fire Dance."

Fedchock has toured with T.S. Monk, Gerry Mulligan's Concert Jazz Band, Louie Bellson's Big Band, the Bob Belden Ensemble and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, and has performed at jazz festivals and concert halls around the world. As a solo artist, he appears throughout the United States and has toured abroad as a guest trombonist/composer/ conductor. To add to his already diverse list of multiple talents, Fedchock is also a producer of note, and has lent his studio expertise to several recent recording projects. His keen ears have also led many artists to enlist him as mix producer or consultant, adding the essential finishing touches to their recordings' post-production. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Fedchock is a graduate of The Ohio State University with degrees in Music Education and Jazz Studies. He also holds a master's degree in Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media from the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He is a clinician and soloist for KING Instruments and conducts seminars and workshops at colleges and universities across the country. Fedchock is a Trombone Chair for the International Association of Jazz Educators' Resource Team, and has been a member of the board of advisors for the International Trombone Association. A strong advocate for arts in education, Fedchock is a visiting instructor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Many of his jazz compositions and arrangements are published by Kendor Music, Inc.

Jonathan Kreisberg guitarist



guitarist

Guitarist/Composer Jonathan Kreisberg was born in New York City. "I was lucky to grow up in a household that had a great and wide record collection including Coltrane's 'My Favorite Things', John Williams playing the 'Aranjuez Concierto' and Cream's 'Disraeli Gears'." While still a child his family moved to Miami, where at age 10 he began playing the guitar. Originally inspired by a range of music, his early studies focused on Rock and Classical guitar as well as music theory.

At age 16 he was featured in Guitar Player Magazine for his original music, and was also accepted to the New World School of the Arts where his jazz studies took center stage. He began an intense practice schedule and by the time he gradu-

ated high school he had been featured in Down Beat Magazine and had received a scholarship to the University of Miami Jazz program. At U of M he held the chair as guitarist for the acclaimed Concert Jazz band, touring Brazil and performing with Joe Henderson, Michael Brecker, and Red Rodney.

Upon graduation, Jonathan began playing straight ahead jazz gigs as well as a myriad of other projects. He performed 20th century works with the New World Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas. He also recorded a C.D. and performed extensively with progressive rock group Third Wish. He formed the electric jazz oriented Jonathan Kreisberg Trio. Based in Miami, this Trio released a C.D. and completed several U.S. East Coast tours, which included opening slots for George Benson and Steve Morse. He also began giving clinics at music schools as well as teaching private lessons.

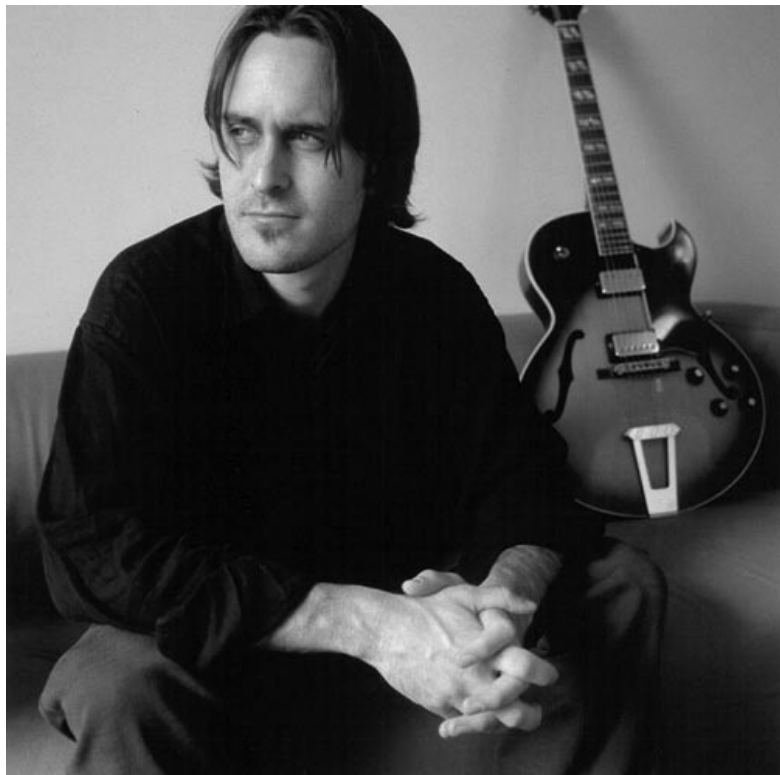
In 1997 he returned to his birthplace in NYC with his focus on cutting edge acoustic jazz. "My Miami Trio was about coming up with new textures and being communicative while still playing intense musically. When I moved to New York I entered a more introspective phase, really getting deeper into melodies and harmonies." This also coincided with a renewed interest in the jazz tradition. "I found that the deeper I got into the tradition the more possibilities I became aware of for the future."

He has since performed in the groups of Joel Frahm, Greg Tardy, Jeff Andrews, Josh Roseman, Roy Nathanson (Jazz Passengers), Donald Edwards, Jane Monheit, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Ari Hoenig, Yosvany Terry and Lenny White, as well as leading his own groups of various instrumentations. In 1999, his trio (with drummer Ari Hoenig and bassist Johannes Weidenmueller) performed in Lima, Peru, where they also gave a clinic at the School of Peruvian Folklore. In early 2000 Jonathan composed and performed what the New York Times called the "elegant underscoring" for the off-broadway show Betwixt. In 2001 and 2003 he performed concerts and taught clinics at Tavira, Portugal's Algarve Em Jazz. In 2002 he completed a tour of Japan and recorded the CD "Duck-tones" with drummer Donald Edwards' Quintet. He has composed music and performed with eclectic song-

Jonathan Kreisberg (cont'd)

smith/writer/performance artist David Cale. Jonathan also teaches lessons and workshops at the New School, City College, Philadelphia College of the Arts, Mannes School of Music and others. He has recorded three cd's under his own name including JONATHAN KREISBERG TRIO(1996), TRIOING(2001) with Ari Hoenig and Johannes Weidenmueller, and NINE STORIES WIDE(2004). Released on the CrissCross Jazz label, this most recent recording features the sublime interplay of drummer Bill Stewart and bassist Larry Grenadier. "I feel that my different influences and experiences are now converging naturally in my music. I'm very excited about following through and getting my sounds out and into the world. I am preparing new music for my quintet and hope to release some documentation of that band in the near future. The band is the closest project to my heart to date. Balancing extra and introspection, electric and acoustic, space and density. "

When not touring as a performer and educator, Jonathan is based in NYC and can be found at his steady Wednesday trio gig at La Lanterna in Greenwich Village.



Phillip Strange



pianist/composer

Dr. Phillip Strange has been an active jazz performer, composer, and music educator for the past twenty-five years. He has performed in the USA, Japan, and Europe with such jazz artists as Joe Henderson, Lew Tabackin, Dave Holland, Ernie Watts, Peter Erskine, Marc Johnson, James Moody, Kevin Mahogany, Dave Carpenter, Ira Sullivan, Mike Miller, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and many others. Strange's award-winning jazz compositions have been performed, recorded, and have received radio airplay.

He is featured on nineteen compact discs with various artists. Most recently, Strange was featured on Philadelphia drummer Larry Marshall's compact disc *Perseverance* (2003), playing jazz standards and Marshall's compositions. *New Truth* (1994) features Strange (piano), Peter Erskine (drums), Mike Miller (guitar), Bob Magnusson (bass), and Gary Foster (woodwinds) playing Strange's compositions and arrangements. *Quiet* (2000) features Strange playing his own compositions for solo piano. *Alone Together* (1999) features Strange with vocalist Cathy Segal-Garcia performing jazz standards. *Song of the Heart* (1993), features Strange (piano), Cathy Segal-Garcia, Marc Johnson (bass), and Peter Erskine (drums).

Strange received his Bachelor of Music "Cum Laude" in 1983 from Arizona State University, and graduated (1988) with a Master of Music in Piano Performance. In 1999, Strange was awarded a university fellowship to study at the University of Miami, where he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts (2003).

Strange is a faculty member at Miami-Dade College, and the University of Miami. He has taught at Arizona State University, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Conservatoire Kobe (Japan). He is the Jazz Discipline Coordinator of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

Strange has won various Downbeat Student Music Awards, including Best Instrumental Jazz Soloist (2003, 2002), Best Jazz Original Composition (2002), and Best Jazz Instrumental Group (2001). He was the first jazz department student at the University of Miami to receive a University Fellowship (1999-2002). In addition, Strange was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student award (School of Music, 2002), and the Award of Academic Merit (2003). He is a lifetime member of the National Music Honor Society (Pi Kapa Lambda), and is listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Strange has performed twice by invitation at the International Association of Jazz Educators convention. Additionally, Strange has won various jazz competitions (including the Pacific Collegiate Jazz Festival, 1985), and university-level classical piano competitions.

Gary Campbell



saxophone

A Fulbright Scholar, Gary is becoming one of this country's most sought after jazz educators. He taught for 12 years at the University of Miami (earning a Master of Music in Jazz Performance while teaching there), is now Assistant Professor of Jazz Performance/Saxophone at Florida International University, and for many years has been a performer/clinician at the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops.

Gary has been awarded numerous National Endowment for the Arts performance grants and has published five highly acclaimed books on jazz improvisation:

PATTERNS FOR JAZZ (co-authored with Jerry Coker);
EXPANSIONS - a method for developing new material for improvisation;
HANK MOBLEY TRANSCRIBED SOLOS
CONNECTING JAZZ THEORY
TRIAD PAIRS FOR JAZZ

His compositions have been recorded by John Scofield, Ira Sullivan, Jeff Palmer, Duffy Jackson, Mike Orta, and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band.

His exciting CD, INTERSECTION (Milestone Records), provocatively blends the currents of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music into the mainstream of modern jazz. His most recent CD release, THICK & THIN (Double-Time Records), features guitar great John Abercrombie.

Gary Campbell plays and endorses Yanagisawa Saxophones exclusively, and is a LeBlanc Clinician

Doug Bickel

composer/arranger

Mr. Bickel teaches Applied Jazz Piano, Class Jazz Keyboard, Jazz Improvisation and Jazz Composition at the University of New Orleans. Doug composes and arranges for and is the Director of the Concert Jazz Orchestra which has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

He has been a touring member of Arturo Sandoval and Maynard Ferguson's bands, and has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Pat Metheny, Woody Herman's Thundering Herd, Maria Schneider, Ira Sullivan, Randy Brecker, David Sanborn and Tito Puente. Doug has appeared at many international jazz venues, including the North Sea and Newport Festivals, the Blue Note, the Jazz Showcase, Yoshi's and Jazz Alley.

He co-founded and was the Director of Jazz Studies at the International Musikschule in Munich, Germany and also was Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano at Virginia Tech University. He currently performs regularly with his New Quintet, featuring Rex Gregory, Derek Douget, Jason Stewart and Adonis Rose, and with the Maurice Brown Quintet.

Doug's latest trio effort, "City Of Rhythm," pays homage to his new hometown and its legacy of producing world-class rhythm section players. It features Roland Guerin and drummer Adonis Rose. Original compositions by Doug and producer Dennis Marks along with modal guru Ron Miller make this an interesting mix of flavors. This follows up Bickel's 2001 release "The Power of Three."

Bickel has served as a sideman, composer, arranger and producer on over twenty recordings

Yainer Horta



saxophonist/arranger

Following the footsteps of his father in his hometown La Habana, Cuba, Yainer started playing saxophone at the age of 11. By the age of 14 enrolled in the prestigious conservatory ENA where he established ties with some of the most accomplished Cuban musicians at an early age. Soon after this, while been a student of the conservatory, Yainer got to perform with trumpet player, Roy Hargrove and saxophonist David Sanchez. At the age of 16 Yainer moved to the U.S and specifically West Palm Beach, Fl where he enrolled at Dreyfuss School of The Arts. In this school was chosen by Jazz Trombonist Extraordinaire Wycliffe Gordon to perform in his group in a concert at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. By this point, Yainer began to be an active Saxophonist in the local Jazz Scene performing in venues like the Harriet Theatre, Sunfest, and Blue Note with musicians like, Simon Zals , Dave Hubber, Joe Noto, John Colliani, and Bob Reynolds. At he age 19, Yainer received a scholarship to attend Berkeley College of Music in Boston, Massachussets. As a student in Boston got to perform with Darrent Barrett, Dave Samuels, Tony Perez, and Francisco Mela around different clubs in the area. Currently, Yainer resides in Miami, Fl where he is active as a jazz musician as well as producer/arranger and has worked with local networks like Univision, Telefutura, Telemundo, America TV.

Othello Molineaux

pan player, arranger, composer

Othello Molineaux is one of the most talented pianist who has made his mark in the realm of steelband and jazz.

He was born in Longdenville, Central Trinidad in 1939; attended both Fatima and Queens Royal Collage Colleges in his quest for a secondary education; and grew up in a musical family.

His father played the violin and his mother taught the piano.

By age 11 Othello had shifted for not only playing the piano but the steelpan.

By age 15 he learnt to tune pans and had his own steelband Wonder Harps.

He left Trinidad in 1967 and went to St. Thomas, as a piano player, but his love for the steelpan ruled.

Over the years Othello has concentrated more on Music Theory and has performed worldwide.

His worldwide accolades are many. He was written into the Japanese Jazz Encyclopaedia.

He was nominated for the best band Jazz-Rock category in the Carbonell 1979 and 1981 Music Awards.

He placed 10th in the International Music Poll, miscellaneous Instrument category.

In 1987 he received a commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives in the USA; and in 1991 he received the Vanguard Award for Outstanding Leadership among black musicians.

Othello has performed with such celebrated musicians as Herbie Hancock, Dissy Gulliespie, Monty Alexander, Peter Erskine, Jaco Pastorius, Toots Thielmanns, and Lou Donaldson just to name a few.

Rodolfo Zuniga



drummer/composer

Was born in San Jose, Costa Rica. At the age of 19 was awarded a full scholarship to attend Florida International University in Miami. In 1999 he enrolled as a jazz performance major and quickly earned the position of the drummer for the concert jazz band at FIU. With this group has performed with such guest artists as Michael Brecker, Paquito D' Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Sam Rivers, Diego Urcola, and Kevin Mahogany. While attending FIU was heard by the Maynard Ferguson Big Bop Nouveau Band, tour manager and offered the position of drummer for this band to tour the US.

Currently he is active in the local Florida scene as sideman with people like Gary Campbell, Michael Gerber, Alex Norris, Phil Strange, Chip McNeill, Mike Orta, Othello Molineaux, Bob Grabowski, Kevin Mahogany. Most recently, he participated in the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead residency at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C from March 23rd to April 1st 2005. With this group, performed in 4 concerts at the Kennedy Center, as well as a small tour of the U.S..As the leader of his own Quintet, he has traveled through the U.S and South America and most recently finished a week long residency at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City. Rodolfo graduated from a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance at FIU in May of 2005..

Christian Tamburr



vibraphonist

Christian Tamburr is a multi-instrumentalist, accomplished on the piano and trapset as well as world and orchestral percussion. However, his true talent is exhibited on his instrument of choice, the vibraphone. Confirmed in May of 2001 when in their annual poll of collegiate musicians, Downbeat Magazine awarded him "Outstanding Solo Jazz Performance". Christian is currently the leader of the critically acclaimed Christian Tamburr Quartet, a four-piece acoustic jazz group, as well as working with many other groups around the country such as the Grammy Award Winning Dazz Band.

Now 24, Christian first started performing jazz at the age of 14 and has since had the opportunity to work with many jazz legends including, Ira Sullivan, Clark Terry, James Moody, Benny Green, Bucky Pizzarelli, Kevin Mahogany, Nicolas Payton, Art

Van Damm, Slide Hampton, Bob Mintzer, Tom Kubis, Milt Hilton, Dick Hyman, Bob Haggart, Mark Murphy, Eric Marienthal, Marcus Printup, and Bunky Green to name a few.

While attending the University of North Florida, Christian performed with the One O'clock Band at Holland's prestigious North Sea Jazz Festival. Performing also at the 2000-'01 Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival, his trio earned three judges' citations: "Outstanding Performance" from Tonight Show drummer Ed Shaughnessy and bassist John Clayton, Jr., and "Outstanding Soloist" from saxophonist Jimmy Heath. The trio was also awarded the distinction of "Most Outstanding Combo Performance."

In the spring of 2001, Christian moved from Jacksonville, Florida to Las Vegas, Nevada to join the Noel Friedline Quintet where he and the group performed at the Allegro Jazz Club at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

Christian has performed as a guest artist with Dave Brubeck, as a solo percussionist with Michael Feinstein, and opened for Harry Connick, Jr. Over the past 3 years tours have taken Christian throughout North America, Europe, and an eight day showcase on the SS Independence, traveling throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Some of the more notable venues include "The World's Greatest Bar on Earth" at World Trade Center, NY, Merv Griffin's "Coconut Club" in the Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, CA, The Brown Derby in Hollywood, CA, the Hard Rock Hotel, Las Vegas, as well as numerous performances at Twins Jazz lounge Washington D.C., The Gem Theater, Kansas City, and The Bluenote L.V.

In 2003, Christian performed on the main stage at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the Charlotte Jazz Festival, the Cullowhee Jazz Festival, Orlando's House of Blues, as well Universal Studio's City Jazz and Walt Disney's Pleasure Island Jazz Company. In November of 2002, as a member of the Noel Friedline Quintet, Christian was hired to play for Julia Roberts at her highly publicized, surprise birthday party in New York City.

Currently Christian is working with Penn and Teller, writing and teaching new music to the world renowned performers. Off the stage, Christian also works as a clinician, teaching for high school and college students all around the country. Clinics vary from working with jazz big bands, small groups, and improvisation, to percussion technique for mallets in the concert or marching idiom. Christian is endorsed by Promark sticks and mallets.

Ajay Parham



vocalist

Washington D.C based vocalist AJay Parham, made his 1993 debut opening for Carlos Santana, as well as, greats like Randy Newman, Keb Mo, and Al Jarreau to name a few. The lyrical dynamics and vocal style of AJay lends itself to cultural importance and heartfelt songs. A gifted songwriter, poet, advocate, and fundraiser, his most recent recording, Planetary People, speaks volumes of the human experience.

Pati Lauren (Pendulum Productions)
endorsed by Promark sticks and mallets.

Having recently moved to Orlando, Florida the future is wide open for Christian and he plans to take advantage of all opportunities that come his way. Perhaps best said in an article from "The Mississippi Rag" the late Rick Fay wrote, "...in all, 47 performers gave their time and talents. I am sure none of them would disagree if I tell you who was the biggest hit of the day. It was vibraphonist Christian Tamburr. During his set the seasoned listener could hear echoes of all the great vibe men, Hampton, Norvo, Milt Jackson. It is a lead pipe cinch this player will take his place among them."

Brenda Earle



vocalist/pianist/composer

Brenda Earle is a woman on a mission. She is a quadruple threat - a singer/pianist/arranger/composer, who has just released her third album "All She Needs". Following in the footsteps of Renee Rosnes, Diana Krall and Seamus Blake, Brenda is part of the next wave of Canadian jazz musicians who have moved to New York City in pursuit of a lifelong musical dream.

Born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario, Brenda attended York University in Toronto. In 1998, she attended the Banff Centre for the Arts, studying and performing with such jazz luminaries as David Liebman, Kenny Wheeler, Hugh Fraser and Kenny Werner. She has a Master's in Music from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Luciana Souza, Garry Dial and David Liebman. In January 2004, Brenda won the International Sisters in Jazz Competition, a prize that recognized her as one of the world's top emerging women jazz musicians. This competition culminated in performances at the IAJE conference, where she and the other four winners opened for Nicholas Payton and the Village Vanguard Orchestra. This group recently headlined the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The Washington Post reported on "Earle's blues-tinted touch and colorful thematic allusions" on the piano and that she "demonstrated her finesse as a vocalist."

In 2003 she was invited to participate in the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Program which also culminated in performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She was selected for the All-Star group, which performed at the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival in Wilmington, Delaware, opening for Herbie Hancock. In 2002 she was awarded a Chalmers Professional Development Grant from the Ontario Arts Council. She has performed with Dick Oatts, Joel Frahm, Joe Martin, Hugh Fraser, Bobby Sanabria, Sunny Wilkinson and Pat LaBarbera. Brenda has been profiled in numerous magazines and periodicals, including the Toronto Star, the Sarnia Observer, the Spill Magazine and jazzreview.com. She spent eight weeks in the "Top Sellers" top ten on jazzpromo.com, and her most recent CD "All She Needs" has received radio play in Australia, Indonesia, Europe and in the US and Canada. Brenda's music reflects a deep knowledge of the jazz tradition, borrowing from such diverse influences as Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson, A.C Jobim, Kenny Wheeler, Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello.

Brenda currently resides in New York City, where she teaches for the Midori and Friends foundation, plays regularly with her quartet, and plays as a sideperson. She is working on recording her next CD, which will be released in Spring 2005.