

Jim Hobbs

Jim Hobbs was born and raised in north-eastern Indiana at the convergence of three rivers. He is a recipient of the Doris Duke New Works Grant for composition from Chamber Music America. After a childhood of chewing hay and catching salamanders he began playing the saxophone. He received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music where he majored in composition. It was there that he met bassist Timo Shanko and started the Fully Celebrated Orchestra (FCO), which has released 10+ recordings on various labels including Silkheart, Skycap and Innova. FCO is also the subject of a children's book. He has performed and recorded with Joe Morris, Luther Gray, Taylor Ho Bynum, Bill Lowe, The Jazz Composers Alliance, Forbes Graham, The Prodigal Suns, Mackie Burnett, Fred Hopkins, Lawrence Cook, Jon Voight, Nightstick, The Death's Head Quartet, Josh Roseman, Curtis Hasselbring, The Lunch Factor, Laura Andel, Brother Blue and many others.

Taylor Ho Bynum

Taylor Ho Bynum, performer on cornet and various brass instruments, composer and bandleader, was born in Baltimore, MD in 1975 and raised in Boston. While in high school, he began studying under the direction of the trombonist and educator Bill Lowe, whom Bynum continues to work with to this day. Bynum attended Wesleyan University, graduating with a BA in music in 1998 and a MA in Composition in 2005, where he studied with saxophonist and composer Anthony Braxton.

Bynum has established a reputation as a unique musical voice willing to take chances in a variety of artistic contexts. Critics have called him “a strong cornetist and serious-minded composer with experimental tendencies” (The New York Times) and “an agile and creative improviser who sounds like no one but himself” (JazzTimes). His projects cover a wide range of artistic expression: from ensembles in the jazz tradition, to work with DJs, contemporary classical composers and world music ensembles, to composing for film and theater, to collaborations with dancers and visual artists. His present working ensembles are SpiderMonkey Strings (consisting of the unusual instrumentation of cornet, string quartet, electric guitar, tuba, vibraphone, and drums, with Jason Kao Hwang, Jessica Pavone, Stephanie Griffin, Tomas Ulrich, Pete Fitzpatrick, Joe Daley, Jay Hoggard, and Luther Gray), his Sextet (with Matt Bauder on reeds, Mary Halvorson and Evan O'Reilly on electric guitars, Jessica Pavone on viola and electric bass, and Tomas Fujiwara on drums), and his Trio (with Halvorson and Fujiwara). He has also developed a body of solo music for cornet and duo work with dancer/choreographer Rachel Bernsen. Bynum's 2005 CD with SpiderMonkey Strings, *Other Stories (Three Suites)*, has been described as “the best album of the year” (All About Jazz) and “beautiful music and challenging throughout” (The Wire). Two new CDs were released in Spring '07: *True Events* (duo with Tomas Fujiwara; The New York Times calls it “a scintillating album... a duologue crackling with improvisational energy but guided by compositional prescription”), and *The Middle Picture* (with his Sextet and Trio; which received “four stars” from Downbeat Magazine).

In addition to leading his own groups, Bynum regularly performs with a host of leading figures in creative music, and is featured on over forty recordings. He has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Argentina, and Europe, including the UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Norway.

His work with Anthony Braxton ranges from duo to orchestra, most recently touring throughout Europe and North America with Braxton's Sextet and Trio, performing a four night stand in NYC with his (12+1)tet, co-conducting Braxton's Ulrichsberg Tri-Centric Ensemble in Austria, co-conducting the premiere of his Composition 19 for 100 Tubas in New York City, and performing and organizing the premiere of Braxton's Composition 103 for Seven Trumpets. Their CD Duets (Wesleyan) 2002 has received wide critical acclaim, and Bynum is featured on several other Braxton recordings, most recently Quintet (London) 2004, Sextet (Victoriaville) 2005, 4 Compositions (Ulrichsberg) 2005, and 9 Compositions (Iridium) 2006.

He is a member of the legendary pianist Cecil Taylor's large ensemble; this group has been together for four years and is regularly featured at NYC's Iridium Jazz Club, including a weeklong celebration of Mr. Taylor's 75th birthday in 2004, as seen in the documentary film All the Notes.

He has been a member of The Fully Celebrated Orchestra (led by saxophonist/composer Jim Hobbs, with bassist Timo Shanko and drummer Django Carranza) since 1999, declared Boston's best jazz group by the Boston Globe, the Boston Music Awards, and the Boston Phoenix. The quartet's music is documented on the 2002 CD Marriage of Heaven and Earth and 2004's Lapis Exilis.

He is also presently performing in a collaborative group called OtherTet with trombonist/tubaist Bill Lowe, bassist/guitarist Joe Morris and drummer Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng, and co-leading a double trio with trumpeter Stephen Haynes. He also performs with violinist Jason Kao Hwang's Edge Quartet, kotoist/composer Miya Masaoka, trumpeter Nate Wooley, and composer Laura Andel, Ghanaian master drummer Kwaku Kwaakye Obeng's band, the avant-salsa group Zemog el Gallo Bueno, and the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra (led by Mark Harvey).

Past collaborations include the collective ensembles Paradigm Shift (with fellow brass multi-instrumentalists Stephen Haynes, Bill Lowe, and Joseph Daley, and percussionists Warren Smith and Syd Smart), Trio Ex Nihilo (with cellist Jeff Song and drummer Curt Newton), and a duo with percussionist Eric Rosenthal. All of these collaborations have resulted in critically acclaimed recordings and concert and festival appearances.

Other performance and recording credits include work under the leadership of Bill Dixon, Anthony Davis, Fred Ho, Alan Silva, Joe Morris, J.D. Parran, Elliot Sharp, Warren Smith, Jay Hoggard, Alvin Batiste, The John Coltrane Memorial Ensemble, The Sound and Vision Orchestra, the Bill Lowe/Carl Atkins Big Band (aka the Boston Jazz Repertory Orchestra), Pheeroan akLaff, Joe Fonda, Matana Roberts, Adam Lane, Andrew

Drury, Carlo Actis Dato, Bbob Rainey, Charlie Kohlase, Ebran Elisha, Nate McBride, Naftule's Dream, Harris Eisenstadt, Guillermo E. Brown, poets Patricia Smith and Jon Sinclair, choreographers Pedro Alejandro and Hari Krishnan, filmmaker Leigh Dana Jackson, and many others.

Bynum is also deeply involved with the arts community as an educator and producer. He has taught all ages, from kindergarten through college, has produced festivals and concert series. He is a founding partner of Firehouse 12 Records, and is on the board of several non-profit arts organizations, including Y'All of New York, Inc, and the Festival of New Trumpet Music. Bynum was an Artist-in-Residence at the 2005 Antwerp (Belgium) Free Music Festival, a 2004 Fellow at the Art Omi International Music Residency, and a 2003 Nominee for the Alpert Award for the Arts.

Forbes Graham

Forbes Graham is a composer, trumpet player, and electronic musician currently based in the Boston area. He has appeared on over 30 recordings, including studio appearances on such labels as Metal Blade, Tzadik, and Troubleman. Forbes has performed and recorded with a very diverse group of artists, including Erase Errata, Rakalam Bob Moses, Steve Lantner, Daughters, Raqib Hassan, Jim Hobbs, The One Am Radio, and Luther Gray. His composition "Variations on the Fibonacci Sequence" was commissioned by the Greenwall Foundation and world premiered at the 2007 Festival of New Trumpet. Forbes has also written music for the new music/rock ensemble Normal Love. He has appeared at numerous festivals including High Zero and The Wire's Adventures in Modern Music. His work incorporates many genres including drum n'bass, jazz, contemporary classical, noise, and hip-hop. Besides music Forbes enjoys vegan cuisine, comedy, studying Taoism, and hanging out with his beautiful girlfriend Lillian.

Bill Lowe

Bill Lowe is a performer, composer and educator whose recordings include work with Muhal Richard Abrams (Heringa Suite); Henry Threadgill (Rag, Bush and All); Frank Foster (Shiny Stockings and Manhattan Fever); Trudy Silver (heroes/heroines); CMIF Orchestra (The Sky Cries the Blues); Andy Jaffe Sextet (Manhattan Projections); The Aardvark Jazz Orchestra (Psalms and Elegies) as well as the debut album of JUBA (Look On The Rainbow) and the debut albums of James Jabbo Ware and the Me, We and Them Orchestra, (TODAY'S MOVE and HERITAGE IS). As co-leader of the Bill Lowe/Philippe Crettien Quintet, Lowe is co-producer and principal composer of that aggregation's debut album, (Sunday Train). The 1991 French tour of the quintet included an engagement at the Sunset Club in Paris. Since 1991, the quintet has served as featured performers and workshop faculty for the City of Toulon Jazz Festival, where Prof. Lowe is the Director of Pedagogy and Instruction. In November of 1994, Prof. Lowe performed in the Jazz Festival in Kyoto, Japan, as a member of the Boston Blazing Jazz Orchestra.

Prof. Lowe is co-producer and featured performer with the John Coltrane Memorial Concert. in Boston. As a member of Joyful Noise, the core performance and teaching

group of the JCMC, Prof. Lowe continues to lecture and perform in a variety of elementary, middle and High Schools in the greater Boston area, as well as appearing on the debut CD, 12th Annual John Coltrane Memorial Concert and co-producing the second JCMC recording, COLTRANE'S ASHE! In 1995, Lowe and other members of Joyful Noise were members of the United States Delegation to the Inaugural Conference, Culture and Social Transformation: Creative Improvisation, held in Holguin, Cuba, January 3-10, 1995. The 12 member US delegation included a group of professors/musicians. As a scholar of African American Studies and as trombonist, tubaist and composer, Prof. Lowe shared music making practices and performance pedagogy in a series of lectures, concerts and research sessions with the assembled group of Cuban intellectuals, writers, educators and musicians. In addition, he extended his on going cultural studies work with the literary/musical environments of Nuestras Americas by presenting a paper at the conference exploring the cross referencing of African American musical styles and images in the expressive constructs of Alejo Carpentier, Nicols Guillon, Langston Hughes and Samuel Delany, entitled: towards a musical reading of Alejo Carpenter's Concierto Barroco and Samuel Delany's The Deferred Dream books of Tomorrow's Daily Daily Considered as BeBop Slave Narratives. Lowe is co-founder/co-director of the Atkins/Lowe Boston Jazz Repertory Orchestra.

Prof. Lowe was the recipient of a major commissioning grant from Meet The Composer and the World Music Institute in 1996 in support of another cycle of his SIGNIFYIN' NATIVES composition project entitled Living Lives, Telling Times: A Trane Trip for the annual JCMC concert.

Lowe's others credits include touring and performances with Sam Rivers; Dizzy Gillespie; Eartha Kitt; Clark Terry; Thad Jones/Mel Lewis; Slide Hampton; Bill Barron; Collective Black Artists; Onzie Matthews; George Russell; Bill Dixon; Jaki Byard; the John Coltrane Memorial Ensemble; Archie Shepp; Grover Mitchell; Mercer Ellington; and various Broadway and symphonic orchestras.

Lowe's opera Reb's Last Funeral: Resolution of Invisible Whips, has received commissioning support from the Connecticut Commission for the Arts and Northeastern University.

An Associate Professor of African American Studies, Education, and Music at Northeastern University, Lowe has also taught at Wesleyan and Yale Universities in Connecticut and the City University in New York. Prof. Lowe's present research activities in American Studies at Yale University include work with contemporary Science Fiction writing, African American Intellectual History, New World Aesthetics and Popular Culture Theory, as well as the Bill Barron Biography Project.

Joe Morris

Joe Morris is widely considered to be one of the most original and important jazz musicians of our time. *Down Beat* Magazine called him "the preeminent free music guitarist of his generation. . .". Will Montgomery writing in *WIRE* magazine called him

“one of the most profound improvisers at work in the US.” He is originally from New Haven, Connecticut. He began playing in 1969 at the age of 14 and is self-taught. He moved to Boston in 1975 and resided there until 1986 and again from 1989-2001. In 1981 he co-founded Boston Improvisers Group (BIG). He was involved throughout his time in Boston in organizing concerts, festivals and performance series at local venues that featured Boston based musicians as well as nationally known Americans and Europeans. In 1983 he started RITI records and released his first recording “Wraparound”. He cites Cecil Taylor, Eric Dolphy, Leroy Jenkins, Thelonious Monk, Jimi Hendrix, Anthony Braxton, Jimmy Lyons, Ornette Coleman and West African string music as major influences. He has performed with Anthony Braxton, Matthew Shipp, William Parker, David S. Ware, Han Bennink, Joe Maneri, Ken Vandermark, Barre Phillips, Paul Rutherford, Rob Brown, John Butcher, Eugene Chadbourne, DKV Trio, Aaly Trio, Daniel Carter, Rashid Bakr, Wilbur Morris, Dewey Redman, Lawrence "Butch" Morris, Andrew Cyrille, Kidd Jordan, Alvin Fielder, Fred Anderson, Ivo Perlman, Andrea Parkins, Hamid Drake, Thurman Barker, Fred Hopkins, Bern Nix, Joe McPhee, Billy Bang, Lowell Davidson, Peter Kowald, Simon Fell, Roy Campbell Jr, Ralph Malik, Whit Dickey, Sabir Mateen, Mark Dresser, Gerry Hemingway, Warren Smith, Tim Berne, Susie Ibarra, Mat Maneri and many others. He has also performed as a member of William Parker's Organic Ensemble, Pipeline 2000, Jim Hobbs Ghost Band, Alan Silva's Celestial Communications Orchestra, Simon Fell Orchestra and in a large ensemble led by Leroy Jenkins. He currently leads various groups including Abstract Forest, a 20+ piece improvising ensemble, as well as performing solo, in duos and as a freelance guitarist and double bassist. He is featured as leader, co-leader and sideman on over 50 recordings. Many of his recordings as a leader have been named among Writer's Choice (best of the year) in the Village Voice, Chicago Tribune, Wire, Coda, and Jazziz. He was the first guitarist to lead a session ("Symbolic Gesture" 1994) on the Soul Note/Black Saint Label. In addition to his own Riti Records, he has recorded for the labels AUM Fidelity, Thirsty Ear, Ayler, Knitting Factory, Okka Disc, OmniTone, Avant, Incus, Hat Hut, ECM, Leo, Homestead, NoMore, About Time, Clean Feed, Skycap and Rogue Art, Ayler and Cunieform. He was nominated for a 2001 Cal Arts Alpert Award. He has performed workshops and master classes in a wide variety of settings throughout North America and Europe. He has taught improvisation and/or guitar on the faculty at Tufts University Experimental College, Southern Connecticut State University, and New School University. He is currently on the faculty in the Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation Department at New England Conservatory and in the Modern American Music Department at Longy School of Music.