

John McNeil

John McNeil is regarded as one of the most original and creative jazz artists in the world today. For nearly three decades John has toured with his own groups and has received widespread acclaim as both a player and composer. His highly personal trumpet style communicates across the full range of contemporary jazz, and his compositions combine harmonic freedom with melodic accessibility. John's restless experimentation has kept him on the cutting edge of new music.

His background includes the Horace Silver Quintet, Gerry Mulligan, and the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra. John is equally at home in free and structured settings, and this versatility has put him on stage with artists from Slide Hampton to John Abercrombie.

John McNeil was born in 1948 in northern California. Due to a lack of available musical instruction in his home town of Yreka, John largely taught himself to play trumpet and read music. By the time he graduated from high school in 1966, John had already begun playing professionally in the northern California region.

John moved to New York in the mid-1970's and began a freelance career. His reputation as an innovative trumpet voice began to grow as he played with the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, and led his own groups at clubs such as Boomer's, the legendary Village jazz room.

In the late 70's, John joined the Horace Silver Quintet. Around the same time, he began recording for the SteepleChase label under his own name and toured internationally.

Although he has worked as a sideman with such luminaries as Gerry Mulligan, John has consistently led his own groups from about 1980 to the present. He has recorded numerous albums that have met with excellent reviews, and continues to record with similar acclaim.

In the 1990's, John became increasingly in demand as a writer, arranger, and record producer. He continues these activities in addition to his usual schedule of live performance.

Bill McHenry

Bill McHenry is a saxophonist, composer and bandleader living in Brooklyn New York. He is known for his melodic/free form composing and improvising, demonstrated most recently on his newest CD "ROSES".

New York Times critic Ben Ratliff writes: "Any musician who works so effectively against a common language, and uses cliché so little in the process, is worth listening to. There are tons of young jazz saxophonists out there pursuing ideas of harmony and

structure and rhythm, but he has something rare going for him. He has a sound. Mr. McHenry is a fresh new voice: He can play with un-orthodox structure and get as free as you want, but he maintains a ripe, lovely tone straight out of the 1950's. Lyrical is probably the most overused word in jazz criticism, but if anyone deserves the word, Mr. McHenry is the one."

Since moving to New York in 1992 Bill started playing regularly in groups led by REID ANDERSON, GUILLERMO KLEIN, ETHAN IVERSON, REBECCA MARTIN, CHRIS LIGHTCAP, and BEN WALTZER as well as leading his own group with BEN MONDER. Eventually that group was joined with Reid and PAUL MOTIAN, and they recorded "Bill McHenry Quartet featuring Paul Motian", which led to Bill playing with that group several times over the next few years at the VILLAGE VANGUARD. Thier newest CD, "ROSES" has been recognized as the strongest yet and Bill continues to write and develop music for other settings.

Bill was born in Maine in 1972. His mother is a pianist, and his great great grandfather was Horatio Parker, a composer who was famous for teaching and failing Charles Ives. He started saxophone at ten and at fourteen went to Interlochen Arts Academy for four years, and then New England Conservatory for eight months. In 1992, Bill moved to New York. After playing little gigs and doing day jobs Bill moved with his sister Mary and high school friend pianist Ben Waltzer to Barcelona and spent two years going back and forth between the two cities. In Barcelona Bill started playing more regularly and with Ben recorded his first record for the Fresh Sound label in Barcelona. After returning to New York he studied long tone production with Dewey Redman which helped him strengthen his tone and identity. He has also played with CHARLIE HADEN, ANDREW CYRILLE, HENRY GRIMES, JOHN ABERCROMBIE, and NORAH JONES. Bill will be in writer/director Tom McCarthy's new film "The Visitor" playing saxophone, improvising and playing songs by his high school friend Mohammed N. Ali.

Teaching Experience

New School of Social Research - 2001-present

Private saxophone and improvisation instruction

Maine Jazz Camp 1997-present

Teacher of Saxophone

Ensemble Coach

Ear Training and Harmony , Beginning to Advanced

Masterclasses on improvisation

U.C. Berkeley

New England Conservatory

U. Maine Augusta

Taller de Musics, Barcelona

Escuela de Musics, Bellaterra 1996- 1998

Teacher of Saxophone, Ensemble Coach

Selected Performance Experience

Village Vanguard, New York

Bill McHenry sextet with Paul Motian July 26 2003

Knitting Factory, New York

Multiple performances with Reid Anderson, Chris Lightcap

Jazz Standard, New York

Guillermo Klein & Los Guachos, weekly, Jan-April 2001

Smalls, New York

Live recording with Ethan Iverson, Jason Lidner Big Band

Barcelona, Spain

Performances and recordings at Jamboree, the Pipa Club,
Jazz Cava Terrasa, etc.

Barcelona Jazz Festival Concerts 1999, 2001, 2002

Edinburgh, Scotland

Bill McHenry Tour organized by Assembly Direct,

Awards and Honors

New York Times annual "Top Ten Alternative/Jazz Recordings"

1999 Bill McHenry Quartet "Graphic"

2000 Ethan Iverson- Bill McHenry "Live at Smalls"

2001 Guillermo Klein and Los Guachos "2"

2002 Rebecca Martin "Middlehope"

Education

New England Conservatory 1990-1991

Studies with Jimmy Guiffre, George Garzone, John McNeil, Joe Maneri

Ensemble with George Russell, Bob Moses, Muhal Richard Abrams

Interlochen Arts Academy 1986-1990

Joe Martin

Joe Martin is one of the most sought-after bassists on the current New York City jazz scene. Known for his warm sound, facile ear, harmonic flexibility, and lyrical solos, he has performed with a diverse range of musicians. Most recently he has been an integral member of Kurt Rosenwinkel's group, documented on a forthcoming live recording from the Village Vanguard.

He has also performed with Andy Bey, Vinicius Cantuaria, Bill Charlap, Art Farmer, Aaron Goldberg, Jon Gordon, Ari Hoenig, Joel Frahm, Ethan Iverson, Guillermo Klein, Ivan Lins, Lionel Loueke, Bill McHenry, John McNeil, Brad Mehldau, Mingus Big

Band, Ben Monder, Jane Monheit, Jean-Michel Pilc, Chris Potter, Maria Schneider, Jaleel Shaw, Grady Tate, Mark Turner, Michael Weiss, and many others.

Continuous musical dialogue amongst great musicians is a major source of inspiration for Joe. Composition is another indispensable component to Joe's musical world. A strong melodic sense and the use of the bass part as both function and counterpoint are apparent in his writing.

His debut CD *Passage*, which features Mark Turner, Kevin Hays, and Jorge Rossy, received much acclaim from critics and musicians alike. He leads gigs regularly in New York City at clubs including The Jazz Gallery, Smoke, and Smalls. He has also toured with his band in Italy.

Born in Kansas City in 1970, Joe grew up surrounded by music in Pella, Iowa. His father, a retired music history professor, was clarinetist with the Des Moines Symphony for 28 years, and his mother, a librarian by profession, is an amateur violinist. His younger brother Phil is a drummer who resides in Chicago. He listened regularly to his parents' extensive classical music collection, which also included records by Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, Miles Davis, and George Shearing.

His grandfather was a jazz pianist who played nightclub and dance gigs in Joplin, Missouri. On family visits, his grandfather taught him many of the great American standards. Growing up in this nourishing musical environment gave Joe his deep love and respect for all music. Joe began his musical studies on cello at age seven. He also played trumpet in his school band. At age fifteen he picked up the electric bass and with encouragement from his parents, band director, and Des Moines bassist Susie Miget, took the instrument home for the summer. He felt an immediate rapport with the bass, playing by ear and learning bass lines he heard on the radio.

Initially drawn to progressive rock, he also listened to fusion and funk players like Stanley Clarke, Ralphie Armstrong, Larry Graham, and Jaco Pastorius. By the end of high school he had also begun playing the string bass and listening to Ray Brown, Paul Chambers, Scott LaFaro, and Ron Carter. Joe attended DePaul University in Chicago on an academic scholarship, but continued his bass study with Larry Gray, with whom he studied both classical and jazz.

After two years he craved a more intensive jazz environment and transferred to William Paterson College in New Jersey, where he studied with Todd Coolman, Rufus Reid, and Harold Mabern. During this period he frequented New York City jazz clubs and heard veteran bassists like Ron Carter, Charlie Haden, Ray Drummond, George Mraz as well as younger players like Bob Hurst, Larry Grenadier, Christian McBride, and Peter Washington. Joe earned a Bachelor of Music degree magna cum laude in 1994 and subsequently moved to New York City.

Since then, the experience he has gained performing with jazz legends, as well as his contemporaries, continues to further his growth and maturity as a musician.

Jochen Rueckert

Jochen Rueckert was born in 1975 near Koeln, Germany and started playing drums at age six. In 1995 he moved to Brooklyn, NY, where he lives now.

He has been playing and recording with a variety of bands including Marc Copland trio, Nils Wogram quartet, Kurt Rosenwinkel Group, Marc Turner Band, Chris Cheek, John Abercrombie, Sam Yahel, Pat Metheny, etc.

Jochen has been touring all over North and South America, eastern and western Europe, Asia and Australia. He is also known for his non-jazz work with NYC punk rock band Bonnie Lundy, NYC rock band Seems So Bright and electronic work with Marcus Schmickler, Jochen Bohnes, Hayden Chisholms, The inflictors, Burndt Friedman and Nublu bands, most mentionable Wax Poetic and I Led 3 Lives. He also plays bass in NYC rock band Wworldclass and programs, remixes and produces music for various artist in the electronic music/idm/breakcore sector. His programming alias is Wolff-Parkinson-White.