

Gerald Cleaver

Born May 4, 1963 and raised in Detroit, Gerald is a product of the city's rich music tradition. Inspired by his father, drummer John Cleaver, he began playing the drums at an early age. He also played violin in elementary school, and trumpet in junior high school and high school. As a teenager he gained invaluable experience playing with Detroit jazz masters Ali Muhammad Jackson, Lamont Hamilton, Earl Van Riper, and Pancho Hagood. While attending the University of Michigan as a music education major, he was awarded a Jazz Study Grant, from the National Endowment for the Arts, to study with drummer Victor Lewis. He graduated in 1992 and began teaching in Detroit where he worked with Rodney Whitaker, A. Spencer Barefield, Marcus Belgrave, Donald Walden, Wendell Harrison, and with visiting musicians Hank Jones, Tommy Flanagan, Barry Harris, Kenny Burrell, Frank Foster, Cecil Bridgewater, Ray Bryant, Eddie Harris, Dennis Rowland, Howard Johnson, Diana Krall and Don Byron. In 1995 he accepted an appointment as assistant professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Michigan, and in 1998 also joined the jazz faculty at Michigan State University. He moved to New York in 2002. He has performed or recorded with Franck Amsallem, Henry Threadgill, Roscoe Mitchell, Lotte Anker, Reggie Workman, Marilyn Crispell, Matt Shipp, William Parker, Craig Taborn, Kevin Mahogany, Charles Gayle, Mario Pavone, Ralph Alessi, Jacky Terrasson, Jimmy Scott, Muhal Richard Abrams, Dave Douglas, Tim Berne, Jeremy Pelt, Ellery Eskelin, David Torn and Miroslav Vitous, among others. As a leader, Cleaver's 2001 recording *Adjust* (Fresh Sound New Talent) was nominated in the Best Debut Recording category by the Jazz Journalists Association. He currently leads the bands *Violet Hour*, *NiMbNI* and *Uncle June*.

J. D. Allen

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "a tenor saxophonist with an enigmatic, elegant and hard-driving style," J.D. Allen is one of the most thoughtful jazz saxophonists on the scene today.

The Detroit natives apprenticeship has largely been in New York, where he has performed, recorded, and toured with legends Lester Bowie, George Cables, Betty Carter, Louis Hayes, Ron Carter, Jack DeJohnette, Frank Foster Big Band, Winard Harper, Butch Morris, David Murray, Wallace Roney, and contemporaries Cindy Blackman, Orrin Evans, Marcus Gilmore, Russell Gunn, and Me'shell N'degeocello, Dave Douglas among others.

J.D.'s debut album, *In Search Of...* (red records), won him the Best New Artist award in Italy in 1999, and had reviewers praising him for his original compositions and bold playing. That same year J.D. began touring and recording with drummer Cindy Blackman's Quartet, where he remains a member.

His second release, *Pharoah's Children* (Criss Cross), won him accolades for its thoughtfulness, maturity, and adventurousness. One of *Jazziz Magazine's* Critics Picks Top

10 Albums of the Year, the album was praised in the U.S. and Europe, along with leading musicians, such as Michael Brecker and Jeff "Tain" Watts.

Since making a strong impression in his early years in New York at venues like Smalls, Village Gate, and Visiones, and serving an invaluable tenure with Betty Carter, J.D. has come a long way, now fully possessed of his own sound. J.D. has appeared on NPR's Jazz Perspectives, WNYC's Soundcheck, WKCR's Musician's Show and is a member of the Romare Bearden Homecoming Jazz All-Star Band.

J.D. Allen performs regularly with his own trio.

Andrew Bishop

Andrew Bishop is a composer, improviser, saxophonist, and clarinetist in highly diversified musical idioms. He has received over 20 commissions from professional organizations and universities, numerous residencies, and recognition and awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Hewlett-Melon Foundation, and a nomination from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His orchestral composition "Crooning" was recorded by the Albany Symphony Orchestra on Two American Piano Concertos (Albany Records) featuring pianists Ursula Oppens and Ian Hobson. He has also completed composition and arranging projects for Matt Wilson, Steve Houghton, and is currently working on a chamber music project for saxophonist Dave Liebman. Dave Lynch of All Music Guide writes: "A composer of contemporary orchestral and chamber music, Bishop combines a jazzman's fire and flow with a rigorous compositional sensibility, resulting in a potent and highly satisfying blend."

As a composer and improviser Bishop's music seeks to find the balance of these two forms of expression. His debut recording as a leader, *Time and Imaginary Time* (Envoi Recordings)—with drummer Gerald Cleaver and bassist Tim Flood—derives its title and inspiration from physics principles and uses a melodic fragment as an agent of variation to bind the divergent works. Donald Elfman of *All About Jazz-New York* writes: "This recording is a free-form, freewheeling delight. It's new music from a piano-less group, but the spirit is so playful, the soundscapes are so simple and rich, and the playing is so accomplished and together, that this dense and complicated_ new music falls richly and beautifully on the ears." Andrew Bishop's *Hank Williams Project* (Envoi Recordings) draws on Bishop's Midwestern roots with works that range from original compositions that elicit the moods and textures of country music and the lonesome landscapes of the great plains; and re-compositions and arrangements of Williams' music. W. Kim Heron of the *Detroit Metro Times* gave it an "A+" writing: "Hear that lonesome postmodern whippoorwill? Bishop makes it sound utterly natural to take liberties with the bard of the country highway. Bishop alternately plays Williams tunes (and originals inspired by him) for laughs and for angst; he jazzes things up and slows them down to Williams-haunted dirges."

As a performer, Bishop in the words of Nate Chinen of the New York Times is “happily pinballed between the supposed poles of tradition and experimentation.” He has performed with Gerri Allen, Reid Anderson, Greg Bendian, Karl Berger, Sandip Burman, Kenny Burrell, Eugene Chadbourne, Ray Charles, Gerald Cleaver, Drew Gress, Jerry Hahn, John Lindberg, Chris Lightcap, The Either Orchestra, Matt Maneri, The Manhattan Transfer, Tony Malaby, Ben Monder, Jeremy Pelt, Hank Roberts, Jacob Sacks, Craig Taborn, Clark Terry, Ben Waltzer, Matt Wilson, and John Zorn among others. He leads a number of his own groups including his trio Bishop/Cleaver/Flood and the avant-Americana/Chamber ensemble The Hank Williams Project. His current associations as a sideman included Gerald Cleaver's Violet Hour, The Ellen Rowe Quartet, the Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble, and Bottomed Out with guitarist and composer Ryan Mackstaller. Bishop has recorded over 30 compact discs as a sideman and his performance with the Ellen Rowe Quartet at the 2003 San Jose Jazz Festival was broadcasted on NPR's Jazzset with Dee Dee Bridgewater. He earned five degrees in music including a doctor of musical arts (DMA) in composition from the University of Michigan.

Ben Waltzer

Ben Waltzer is from Lansing, Michigan and attended the Interlochen Arts Academy where he won awards from Downbeat magazine and the National Association of Jazz Educators. He then enrolled in a double-degree program at the New England Conservatory -- where he studied with pianists Geri Allen and Bevan Manson, and saxophonist Jimmy Giuffre -- and Tufts University. In 1991 Ben transferred to Harvard University to study American History and Literature. While at Harvard, he wrote a thesis on the jazz historian, essayist and novelist Albert Murray. He graduated magna cum laude in 1993 and was the recipient of Harvard's Braverman Award for artistic excellence.

Ben then moved to New York to pursue jazz and soon began working with a wide range of dedicated young musicians, including Bill McHenry, Reid Anderson, Jorge Rossy, and Leon Parker. In 1996 he recorded his first cd, “For Good,” featuring Mr. Rossy and bassist Anderson for the burgeoning Fresh Sound/New Talent record label. Later that year, Ben moved to Barcelona for eight months to perform and teach jazz. While there he recorded “Jazz is Where You Find It: Live at the Pipa Club” with the tenor saxophonist Bill McHenry which Cuadernos De Jazz named the third-best worldwide jazz release of 1997. Cadence magazine called his next record, “In Metropolitan Motion,” (2000) a “winner because it revels in the jazz tradition rather than exploits it.” Allaboutjazz.com referred to it as an “inspired statement.” JazzTimes magazine hailed it the strongest of Fresh Sound's then latest releases.

In addition to his jazz career, Ben has recently delved into the world of television, serving as musical director for, and appearing as a regular on, celebrity designer Isaac Mizrahi's weekly television program on the Oxygen network. On the show he has performed with The Gogos, Jennifer Holiday, Valerie Harper, Andrea Martin, Elmo, Lauren Ambrose (from HBO's 'Six Feet Under'), Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior from 'The Sopranos'), Christine Ebersole ('42nd Street'), Bebe Neuwirth, Kristin Chenoweth, Lorraine Hunt-

Lieberson and many others. Ben composed the show's theme as well as music for Isaac's most recent Target commercial. A new Mizrahi series is currently in development at E! Entertainment to feature Ben as musical director.

Ben recently toured the US and Europe with the vocalist and rising star, Madeleine Peyroux. He is an Adjunct Lecturer in Jazz Performance at Columbia University, a faculty member at the Maine Jazz Camp, and has written about jazz for The New York Times, JAZZIZ, the Newark Star Ledger, and other publications. Ben is a 2004 recipient of both Chamber Music America's New Works grant and the CMA/ASCAP Award for Jazz Ensemble. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Yasmin Spiro, and his daughter, Bella.

Chris Lightcap

Bassist and composer Chris Lightcap has collaborated with Marc Ribot, Regina Carter, Craig Taborn, Mark Turner, Joe Morris, Sheila Jordan, James Carter, Butch Morris, Ben Monder and Tom Harrell. Since 1998 he has also led his own groups and produced two critically acclaimed albums of original music.

Born and raised in the great beer and steel town of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Chris Lightcap started out on the piano at age eight, switched to violin at nine and began to teach himself the electric bass at fourteen. He simultaneously played violin in a local youth symphony and took gigs on bass guitar with local rock bands as well as his school's jazz and concert bands. As a senior in high school he started to study the upright bass and the following year he enrolled at Williams College. During this period he studied with jazz bassist Cameron Brown, composers Robert Suderburg, David Kechley and Alvin Lucier, trumpeter Bill Dixon, and the late master bassist Milt Hinton. While attending Wesleyan University for a semester he also had the privilege of studying and performing with master drummer Edward Blackwell shortly before his death in 1992. Upon graduating from Williams with the school's Hutchinson arts grant he moved to his current home, New York City.

Lightcap eventually became busy performing and recording within the city's fertile jazz and contemporary music scenes. He also met many musicians who would become longtime creative collaborators. Meanwhile he continued his writing, contributing music to various cooperative bands and side projects. In 1998 he assembled his own group, featuring Gerald Cleaver on drums and Tony Malaby and Bill McHenry on tenor saxophones. Lightcap's debut as a leader, "Lay-Up", was released in 2000 on Fresh Sound Records and dubbed "one of the year's winners" by the New York Times. It also sat on the CMJ jazz chart for over a month, eventually reaching the #7 slot. In a New York Times review of one of his quartet's performances, Ben Ratliff wrote: "Mr. Lightcap is one of the few musicians working these days who has the breadth and inclination to divide his working life between what's called avant jazz and the mainstream."

Lightcap's quartet released its follow-up on Fresh Sound, "Bigmouth" in early 2003. This latest CD also reached CMJ's top ten and was awarded the highest rating of "Choc" (Shock) by the top Jazz magazine of France, Jazzman. Bigmouth has also enjoyed wide acclaim in such publications as Jazztimes, Cadence, the Village Voice, All About Jazz and Double Bassist.

In addition to an extensive career as a freelance upright and electric bassist, Lightcap is currently touring and playing around NYC with his current group, Bigmouth, featuring Malaby and Mark Turner on tenor saxophones, Craig Taborn on keyboards and Gerald Cleaver on drums. Recently this group received a New York Times review as well as reviews in the Newark Star Ledger and All About Jazz.

Lightcap's composing has also extended to the realms of film scoring and chamber music. Most recently he was commissioned to write "Wiretap" for the new music ensemble (counter)induction, which premiered the piece in October of 2006 at the Tenri Cultural Center in New York.

As a sideman Lightcap enjoys work with a wide array of material and musicians, having toured and played major festivals with such bandleaders as Mark Turner, Ravi Coltrane, Joe Morris, Matt Wilson, Ben Monder, Terrel Stafford, and Rob Brown. He performed weekly with the Cecil Taylor Big Band in 1995 and was invited to perform in a trio with Archie Shepp and Sunny Murray in Paris the following year. For the next two years he worked regularly throughout New York City in a trio led by saxophonist George Garzone. In 2000 Chris joined the ensemble of Verve recording artist Regina Carter. He subsequently performed and recorded extensively with Carter for five years, touring throughout four continents and being featured alongside the rest of her quintet with the Boston, Atlanta and Minnesota Symphonies.

He has played on over 40 CDs, including Craig Taborn's "Light Made Lighter" (Thirsty Ear), Regina Carter's "Pagannini: After a Dream" (Verve/Universal) Whit Dickey's "Transonic" (Aum Fidelity), Rob Brown's "Jumping Off the Page" (No More), and Joe Morris' "Underthru" (Omnitone), "A Cloud of Blackbirds"(Aum Fidelity), and "At the Old Office"(Knitting Factory Works). He has also recorded with Tom Harrell, Marc Ribot, Anthony Coleman, Steven Bernstein, Roy Campbell, and Mat Maneri.

Duane Eubanks

Duane Eubanks was born into a family of gifted musical talent. His mother, pianist Vera Eubanks, brothers, trombonist Robin Eubanks, and Tonight Show with Jay Leno guitarist Kevin Eubanks, and uncle, legendary pianist Ray Bryant have all contributed to his early music education. The Philadelphia native played trumpet for the first time at age 11, but didn't consider music as a career until college. While studying for a Business Administration degree at the University of Maryland, Duane joined the university's jazz band, which afforded him opportunities to play with jazz luminaries as Stanley Turrentine, Shirley Scott, Charles Fambrough, and Clark Terry. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Duane studied jazz at Temple University. He performed in

master classes with Dr. Billy Taylor and Wynton Marsalis. In addition to his formal jazz education, Duane took two years of private lessons with famed trumpeter Johnny Coles, who became one of his primary mentors. The years of study and continual encouragement from Robin and Kevin motivated Duane to take on his ultimate challenge. In 1996, he moved to New York with his good friend and musical partner Orrin Evans. Duane caught the attention of French producer Aleardo G. Buzzi while sitting in with Robin at Bradley's in New York. Aleardo recorded Robin's 1998 TCB records release 4:JJ/Slide, Curtis & Al on which Duane played trumpet. Duane's inspired playing left a lasting impression on Aleardo. Aleardo then approached Duane with a proposal to record his first CD as leader for TCB. The result was his critically acclaimed debut, My Shining Hour released in 1999. Duane believes that there is value in working with big bands and observed that historically, trumpeters come up through big bands before launching their solo careers. That being said, Duane has played with the Dave Holland Big Band, Frank Foster Loud Minority Big Band, Oliver Lake Big Band, Illinois Jacquet Big Band, Next Legacy Orchestra, Jason Lindner Big Band, and Lionel Hampton Big Band. He has worked with Bootsie Barnes, Benny Golson, Bobby Watson, Mickey Roker, James Moody, Donald Byrd, Terrell Stafford, Tim Warfield Jr., Antonio Hart, The Temptations, Mulgrew Miller, Robin Eubanks, Elvin Jones, Louis Hayes, Curtis Fuller, and John Hicks. Currently, Duane is teaching private lessons at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, touring with Dave Holland's two time Grammy winning Big Band, Mulgrew Miller's band, Wingspan, and working on a project with Kevin. Duane is a busy sideman and is dedicated to seeing the growth of his music and career as a leader. His most recent recording as leader is Second Take on TCB Records. Duane has performed in many different genres of music. This has given him the opportunity to work and record with Talib Kweli, Wu Tang Clan, Mos Def, Freedom Williams, and recently Kirk Franklin. Duane is now working on a recording to incorporate all of these influences.