

Ray
Blue



Ray Blue



"RAY BLUE HAS AN ESSENTIAL SAXOPHONE QUALITY, HE OWNS A BIG SOUND"

Born in Portsmouth, Virginia and raised in Peekskill, New York, Ray Blue now lives in Berlin and New York. Ray grew up playing clarinet and saxophone in school orchestras, concert and jazz big bands as well as r&b/soul bands.

After earning a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work, Ray moved forward musically studying with Paul Jeffreys, Charles Davis and Sonny Sherrock. While taking advisement from Ornette Coleman and mentoring with Arthur Blythe and others, Ray continued his intense study while working in different jazz and r&b bands. Ray emerged as an accomplished composer, arranger and performer on tenor and soprano saxophones.

In addition to leading his own band, Cross Continental Spirit, Ray is a mainstay with Spirit of Life Ensemble. He worked with the Sun Ra Arkestra, Cotton Club All Stars and other bands that included such musicians as Clifford Adams, Steve Turre, Gary Bartz, Ted Curson, Eddie Henderson, Joe Lee Wilson, Noel Pointer, Ed Pasant, John Gilmore and former teacher Charles Davis. As a leader John Patton, Wycliff Gordon, Ed Cherry, Michael Cocheran, Bruce Cox, Art Davis, Beldon Bullock, Xavier Davis, Doc Powell, Calvin Hill, Chip White, Andy McKee, Reggie Moore, Larry Willis, Bobby Battle, Victor Jones, Siphon Kunene and others have shared the stage and/or recording studio with Ray.

Ray Blue's performance history includes festivals, concerts, nightclubs, TV specials, TV commercials, documentary films and live theatre. Ray has recorded with bands for Columbia, RCA and Crystal record companies and other independent labels. He is an educator/clinician, consulting and performing in colleges, universities and public schools internationally.

Festival performances as leader and featured artist include: North Sea Jazz Festival-Cape Town and Macufe Festival-Bloemfontain, South Africa; European Union Annex Festival-Dublin, Ireland; Audi Jazz Festival-Brussels, Belgium; Berlin Fringe Jazz Festival and Koepenick Jazz Festival-Berlin, Germany; Macao Jazz Festival-Macao and Midi Music Festival-Beijing, China; Newport in New York Festival-New York and New York State Black Arts Festival-Albany, New York; Bayonne Jazz Festival-Bayonne and Foix Jazz Festival-Foix, France; Pori Jazz Festival-Pori, Finland and more.

Ray makes annual visits to China to conduct Jazz Education Workshops and Master Classes. In 2004, he was a group member who visited Lusaka, Zambia to perform and conduct Blues and Gospel Choir workshops. Ray provides Private Instruction, Big Band Coaching, Jazz Ensemble and Saxophone workshops and Master Classes. He performs and teaches in the U.S.A., Europe, Africa and China.

In 2001 his first CD, "Always With A Purpose" was released (distribution: www.jazz-network.com) Ray will soon release a new Jazz CD "Classic Meeting". In November 2004 there was a release of the CD "Ray Blue Live At Liars". He is also preparing to record a CD of Spiritual Music and one of African World Music.

Updated tour and other info: www.rayblue.com
