

## **STEPHEN RILEY (Tenor Saxophonist)**

Born in Greenville, North Carolina, in 1975, Stephen Riley began playing the violin (Suzuki method) at the age of 4. His mother was a classical voice and piano teacher and valued music education for both Stephen and his brother who is a professional drummer. At age 10, Stephen began playing the alto saxophone and became very interested in jazz by listening and absorbing the sounds of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Lester Young, among others.

Stephen was accepted into a high school of the arts in Florida and made the transition to tenor saxophone. At age 17, he won the Stan Getz / Clifford Brown Fellowship Award. Bassist Rufus Reid, one of the judges for this competition, recognized Stephen's unique talent and invited him to attend William Patterson University, in Wayne, New Jersey, where Rufus was head of the Jazz Department. After a year at William Patterson, he moved to New York City, where he was quickly noticed by many highly-esteemed jazz artists.

Stephen began touring and recording with such artists as Wynton Marsalis and the "Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra", The Harper Brothers (European Reunion Tour), The Mingus Big Band (shows at The Time Cafe NYC), Ray Charles (Southeastern U.S. tour), Harry Connick Jr. ("Songs I Heard" U.S. tour), Wynton Marsalis small group (featuring Stefon Harris, Reuben Rogers, Ali Jackson, Stephen Riley, Wessell Anderson, Ron Westray, and Eric Lewis), and Marcus Roberts (Blues for The New Millennium tour.)

Stephen Riley has been and is currently a featured artist at Jazz at Lincoln Center's concert series. In Scandinavia, Stephen regularly tours with Snorre Kirk.

### **Notable Performances include:**

**Blues in the Bucket** with Nicholas Payton, Cyrus Chestnut, Ray Drummond, Victor Lewis, Harry Sweets Edison, Al Grey

**Boudoir Tenors** with Frank Wess, Lew Tebackin, Wayne Escoffery

**Harry Sweets Edison and Clark Terry** at The Jazz Showcase, Chicago

**Marcus Roberts**, Romance, Swing and the Blues at Lincoln Center, New York

**Marcus Roberts**, Deep in the Shed at Lincoln Center

**Marcus Roberts**, The Music of Earl Hines and Bud Powell, Lincoln Center

Stephen has worked and performed with artists:

Natalie Cole, Harry Connick, Jr., Nora Jones, Branford Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Joe Lovano, Joe Henderson, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Chris Potter, Jackie McLean, Eric Reid, Lewis Nash, Christian McBride, Bill Charlap, Percy Heath, Marcus Printup, Norman Simmons, Charles McPherson, Herlin Riley, Ryan Kisor, Jason Moran, Billy Hart, Adam Nussbaum, Terrall Stafford, Wycliffe Gordan, Jimmie Green, Joel Fraum, Kenny Garrett, Aaron Deihl, Dave Stryker, Rodney Whitaker, Kenny Washington, Peter Washington, Sam Yahel, Maceo Parker.

## **ALBUMS:**

Stephen Riley is a Steeplechase recording artist with 14 critically acclaimed album releases as a leader.

2005: Inside Out (with Greg Hutchinson & Neal Caine) trio  
2007: Easy to Remember (Jason Marsalis & Neal Caine) trio  
2007: Once upon A Dream (John Brown & Stephen Riley) Duo  
2010: El Gaucho (Jason Marsalis, Neal Caine, Ernest Turner) quartet.  
2011: Lucky Seven (same personnel as El Gaucho) quartet  
2012: Hart-Beat (Billy Hart and Neal Caine) trio  
2013: Lover (Peter Zak, Neal Caine, Jason Marsalis) quartet  
2014: Baubles Bangles and Beads (Peter Zak, Neal Caine, Jason Marsalis) quartet  
2015: Haunted Heart (Peter Zak & Stephen Riley) Duo  
2017: Deuce (Peter Zak & Stephen Riley) Duo.  
2018: Hold 'Em Joe (Jay Anderson and Adam Nussbaum) trio  
2019: Oleo (Jay Anderson, Adam Nussbaum, Joe Magnarelli)  
2020: Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> (Jay Anderson, Billy Drummond, Kirk Knuffke)  
2021: I Remember You

In 2019, Stephen joined the ranks of the Canadian label Cellar Live Records and in October 2021 released a duo record with Ernest Turner entitled Original Mind.

## **EDUCATION**

Stephen Riley is highly involved in jazz education, teaching private students in North Carolina, where he now resides, and in many other locations around the U.S. and Europe.

### **Artist Residencies and Master Classes**

Savannah Music Festival, annual clinician for "Swing Central" including Terrell Stafford, Marcus Roberts, Marcus Printup, Wycliffe Gordan, Aaron Deihl (8 year tenure)

(Stephen Riley is a featured recording artist with Aaron Deihl quartet on Aaron's latest Mack Avenue records release) "Time, Space Continuum", Jason Marsalis, Christian McBride, Rodney Whitaker

UNC Chapel Hill University

UNC Greensboro University

Duke University (Durham, NC)

University of South Carolina (Charleston, SC)

York University (Toronto, Canada)

FSU University (Tallahassee, Florida)

Jazz and Heritage (New Orleans, LA)

UNO University (New Orleans, LA)

Copenhagen Music Conservatory (Denmark)

Krakow Music Conservatory (Poland)

Jaworski Jazz Camp (Jaworski, Poland)

ECU University (Greenville, NC)