

Masterclass CD By Will Campbell

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ARTISTS ON MASTERCLASS CD

Complete Biography's

Will Campbell, saxophone

Originally from North Carolina, Will Campbell is the Director of Jazz Studies and Associate Professor of Saxophone at UNC Charlotte. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance and Literature degree from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies) and Master of Music (Saxophone Performance) from the University of North Texas. While attending UNT, he was a member of the One O'Clock Lab Band and directed the Three O'Clock Lab Band.

From 1990 to 1994, he toured internationally as a member of the Harry Connick, Jr. Orchestra. Recording credits include *Blue Light, Red Light, When My Heart Finds Christmas*, and *The New York Big Band Concert* (DVD). Will has performed with artists such as Marvin Stamm, Randy Brecker, Bobby Shew, Pete Christlieb, Frank Sinatra, Jr., Doc Severinsen, Louie Bellson, and ensembles such as The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony, Charlotte Philharmonic Orchestra, and Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra.

Campbell was awarded a UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant in 2007 to record *Think Tank* (Cellar Live Records), his debut release as a leader and composer. In the review of *Think Tank* for *All About Jazz*, Raul d'Gama Rose stated, "Campbell is always meticulous in his pace, letting his warm, fat tone sing out as he constructs solos of breathtaking resonance." In 1995, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Fellowship Grant, which allowed him to study privately with renowned saxophonist Dick Oatts in New York City. Since 1999, he has been a member of the University of North Texas Summer Jazz Workshop Faculty. He has performed at conferences for the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Association for Jazz Education, and the World Saxophone Congress. He has published

articles in the *Jazz Education Journal*, *The Saxophone Journal*, and *The Saxophone Symposium*. His arrangements for jazz ensemble are now available through University of Northern Colorado Jazz Press. Campbell is an Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Company and a Performing Artist for Rico Reeds and endorses these products exclusively.

Stefan Karlsson, piano

Stefan Karlsson was born and raised in Vastervik, Sweden. After completing high school, he came to the United States on a scholarship to study at the University of North Texas. Stefan spent six years at UNT and became, for three years, a member of the "One O'Clock Lab Band." While in the band, he toured nationally and internationally. Stefan graduated in 1991 with a Master's Degree in jazz studies. In 1990, Stefan signed a three-CD recording contract with Justice Records Houston, Texas. His latter two recordings were a great success on the national jazz radio charts, GAVIN and R&R, with a first place, on both charts, for his second release *The Road Not Taken*. Stefan's fourth release, "Live at Vartan Jazz," was recorded in 1997 by Vartan Jazz Records in Denver, Colorado. The album is a live recording and features bassist Eddie Gomez and drummer Eliot Zigmund. After having resided in Denver, Colorado (1991-1994) and in Las Vegas, Nevada (1994-2002), fulfilling his duties as Coordinator of Jazz Studies at UNLV, Stefan is currently a faculty member in the University of North Texas' Jazz Studies division. In addition, he has also been part of the Stanford Jazz Workshop since 1992 working as a clinician and performer. Since 1996, Stefan has been a member of the Eddie Gomez Trio and Quartet (including: drummers Jimmy Cobb, Nasheet Waits, Duduka Da Fonseca,

Billy Hart, and flautist Jeremy Steig) frequently touring Japan, Europe and the United States. The various groups has recorded five CD projects. In addition to performing and recording with the Eddie Gomez group, he has also had the opportunity to share the stage and recorded with such jazz greats as:

Jesse Davis, Herb Ellis, Jim Ferguson, Carl Fontana, Tim Hagans, Steve Houghton, Clay Jenkins, Marc Johnson, Rich Matteson, Red Mitchell, Dick Oatts, Rich Perry, Chris Potter, Rufus Reid, Marvin "Smit-ty" Smith, Ed Soph, Marvin Stamm, Harvie S, Mark Walker, Tom Warrington, Jim White, Jiggs Wigham, Eliot Zigmund, and others

John Brown, bass

Bassist, composer, educator and actor John Brown is a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and currently resides in Durham, NC. He is a graduate of the School of Music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the School of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. John currently serves as Director of the Jazz Program and Associate Professor of the Practice of Music at Duke University, and he has served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University and Guilford College (NC). He has been performing professionally since his teens and has performed in the United States and abroad with artists like Wynton Marsalis, Ellis Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Elvin Jones, Nnenna Freelon, Cyrus Chestnut, Diahann Carroll, Rosemary Clooney, Nell Carter, Lou Donaldson, Slide Hampton, Nicholas Payton, Frank Foster, Larry Coryell, Cedar Walton, Fred Wesley, Bernard Purdie and Mark Whitfield, as well as giving regular performances as a substitute with the North Carolina Symphony since 1992. John is also part owner of the **Hudson Brown Agency** (a full-service international booking agency), and he has recently become a **Yamaha** Certified String Educator.

Rick Dior, drums

Rick Dior is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with renowned timpanist Fred Hinger and jazz composer Bob Mintzer. He also studied extensively with famed jazz drummer Joe Morello. Rick has performed as a percussionist with some of the biggest names in the music industry including James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Bobby McFerrin, and Marvin Hamlisch. He has added his drum set talents to performances with many great

jazz artists including Marvin Stamm, Bill Watrous, Clark Terry, Red Rodney, Chris Potter and Lionel Hampton. Some of these performances have taken place with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, which he has performed with since 1990. Rick's recording credits are extensive and include movie soundtracks, CD releases and commercial radio and television spots. As a first call percussionist in Charlotte Rick has performed in dozens of Broadway show tours including *Wicked*, *The Producers*, *Spamalot*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story* and *Mary Poppins*. As a composer, Rick has written many compositions and arrangements for Jazz and Latin groups as well as for the Charlotte Symphony the UNC Charlotte percussion ensemble and the Charlotte symphony percussion ensemble. He is the author of several percussion books and DVD's the including the acclaimed *Advanced Coordination for Drum Set and Hand Percussion*. Rick is also the owner of one of Charlotte's top recording studios, Acoustic Barn Studios (www.acousticbarn.com), where he records and produces many outstanding artists.