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Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective



Jorge Sylvester - Alto Saxophone, Composer,
and Arranger,
Nora McCarthy - Voice, Poetry and
Compositions
Waldron Mahdi Ricks - Trumpet
Pablo Vergara - Piano
Donald Nicks - Electric Bass
Kenny Grohowski - Drums



JORGE SYLVESTER ACE COLLECTIVE

(Afro-Caribbean Experimental)

A fearless originator of cross-cultural musical dialogues, Jorge Sylvester's ACE Collective is a sextet of established world-renowned improvising musicians that specialize in connecting the dots between Afro-Caribbean rhythms and the progressive jazz tradition. Led by Panamanian born alto saxophonist, composer, and arranger, JORGE SYLVESTER.

Original, new and experimental, the music is a highly rhythmic and spiritually motivated compositional journey through the various cultures that make up the Caribbean Islands encompassing their significance and contribution to the present day advanced musical concepts in jazz and avant-garde/free music. It uses the "word" in the form of poetry and lyrics to convey each song's spiritual and historical message.

Jorge Sylvester Bio



“Jorge Sylvester's distinctive alto saxophone sound is imbued with the volatility of Caribbean basin's complex mosaic, transformed and focused by the probing musical linguistics pioneered by the great saxophonists of modern jazz.” *Ramsey Ameen Violinist, Composer, w/ Cecil Taylor's Unit*

Born in Colon, Panama Jorge is a nationally known unique innovator and impressive composer and arranger in the idiom of creative music. With a sound reminiscent of Eric Dolphy and Ornette Coleman, Sylvester's blend of African-Caribbean rhythms with new music is what gives him his distinguished voice. Prior to moving to New York, Sylvester spent ten years in Spain, touring Europe and recording with his ensembles. Since his arrival he has remained on the cutting edge of the creative NY Jazz Scene.

He works extensively in New York City and has performed at the top venues there such as the Blue Note, Smoke, Smalls, Birdland, Jazz Gallery, to name a few. Throughout his career he has toured the US, Europe, Israel, the UK and the Caribbean with his groups and others. In 2000, he formed a collaboration with vocal artist, composer, lyricist and poet, Nora McCarthy and together they lead and co-lead eleven noteworthy groups.

Jorge Sylvester Bio

(cont'd)

Mr. Sylvester composes, arranges, and conducts new music for his various groups and expansive projects and presents performance workshops at universities throughout New York and elsewhere in the United States teaching his unique approach to composition using Afro-Caribbean rhythms. Mr. Sylvester attended the Panama Conservatory of Music and the University of Panama, studied advanced harmony with Argentinian pianist, composer Luis Vecchio in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, Spain whose Quartet he also then recorded with. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music from the State University of New York College at New Paltz and attended the renowned vibraphonist Karl Berger's Creative Music Studio in Woodstock, NY where he took workshops with Bassist, Dave Holland, Saxophonists, Oliver Lake, Steve Lacy, Marion Brown, Violinist Ramsey Ameen, and many others.

Tours/residencies/notable concerts include: Clement's Place-Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies - Newark, NJ, North Hampton's Jazz Shares Concert Series, Umass, Springfield, Massachusetts; Andrew Cyrille at The Kitchen NYC; Europe with Joe Bowie's Defunkt Big Band; Performances with trombonist composer Craig Harris for the Harlem Jazz Series; Europe and Israel with the World Saxophone Quartet; Danilo Perez's Panamanian Jazz All Stars for the Panama Jazz Festival; Podgorica, Montenegro Jazz Appreciation Month Series with A Small Dream in Red and appeared on the television show, Good Morning Montenegro; concert and recording in Linz, Austria at the Brucknerhaus Concert Hall with Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective; Vision Festival X, NYC with his ConceptualMotion Orchestra (CMO); the Baha'i Center, Dizzy Gillespie Theater, NYC yearly residency from 2010 to 2020 with CMO; and, monthly residency(both performances and workshops) at El Taller Latino Americano Arts Center, NYC with CMO featuring guest artists 2018-2020. Sylvester's discography includes thirteen CDs.

DISCOGRAPHY

Mayhem at Large – Spontaneous Expressions (RedZen Records, 2021)

blesSINGS - w/Nora McCarthy People of Peace Quintet (RedZen Records, 2016)

In the Language of Dreams - A Small Dream In Red Duo (RedZen Records, 2013)

Spirit Driven - The ACE Collective (RedZen Records 2010 rel. 2013)

Toward the Hill Of Joy Featuring Nora McCarthy - (Blue Unity Music, 2011)

Playground - (Jazzaway Records, 2005)

A Small Dream in Red - A Small Dream In Red Duo (Sundown Jazz Records, CSU, 2003)

The Mass (Palmetto Records, 2000)

Another Side (CIMP Records, 2000)

Magic Night - (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1989)

Viriato Blue - (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1983)

The Blue Oneness of Dreams with Poet Sekou Sundiata - (Mouth Almighty Records, 1997)

The Essence All Stars - featuring Doug Carne, Idris Muhammed and Josh Roseman (Hip Hop Records, 1997).



Mayhem At Large ~ The Last Baha'i Jorge Sylvester Spontaneous Expressions

This double CD Release by Jorge Sylvester Spontaneous Expressions Octet features some of the greatest long-standing innovative improvising musicians on the world stage today." This is brilliant music. Do you ever wonder how great improvisers create their work? In this double album each CD starts with a couple of solos followed by duets and ending with an octet performance. There is a spaciousness in the music that speaks to the mind. It is evident at first listen that these improvisers are also great listeners. This is pure music - unhurried - allowing itself to develop into full maturity and fruition. There's a feeling listening to this album that you're sitting in with the group, letting the improvisational process envelop you. These albums are really a window into the world of improvisation. It's a world where music and songs are not created in two minutes and 58 seconds - rather the pieces are allowed to develop and take their time to create new vistas unexpectedly and greatly appreciated. Beauty and genius cannot be rushed, and this album is a perfect example of those aspects. This album makes me feel free. Highly recommended

Cadence Magazine – David Haney, Publisher



Spirit Driven Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective

"Trying to hear this music in terms of metrical beats would be like traveling along Arizona's magnificent Red Rock Scenic Road and only counting the mile markers rather than taking in the breathtaking scenery.

Jorge Sylvester is a brilliant composer, arranger, and virtuoso alto saxophonist is one the most capable soloists holding an alto today. He has been compared to some of jazz's best improvisers: Ornette Coleman, Eric Dolphy, Sonny Simmons, Sonny Rollins, Oliver Lake, and Julius Hemphill.

Spirit Driven, is a highly rhythmic and spiritually motivated compositional journey through the various cultures that make up the Caribbean Islands encompassing their significance and contribution to the present clay advanced musical concepts in jazz and avant-garde/free music. It uses the "word" in the form of poetry and lyrics to convey each song's spiritual and historical message. The music continuously flows and develops with a lithe bodily grace and expressive range, transfiguring its structural complexity and technical virtuosity into an intimate and honest gesture of oneness with each listener, only possible by virtue of consummate musicianship."

Ramsey Ameen - violinist, former member of Cecil Taylor's Unit

JORGE SYLVESTER ACE COLLECTIVE



Members of the ACE Collective (Afro-Caribbean-Experimental)

NORA MCCARTHY: daringly original, versatile and fearlessly honest singer, composer, and poet.

WALDRON MAHDI RICKS: impeccably artful trumpet player, a jazz master in his own right.

PABLO VERGARA: astoundingly imaginative pianist, musically fluent on an encyclopedic, global scale.

DONALD NICKS: journeyman artisan of the bass, unfailingly and always tastefully, providing the musical foundation;

KENNY GROHOWSKI: uncannily precise and inventive drummer and percussionist.

THE JORGE SYLVESTER ACE COLLECTIVE (Afro-Caribbean Experimental)



A fearless originator of cross-cultural musical dialogues, Jorge Sylvester's ACE Collective is a sextet of established world-renowned improvising musicians that specialize in connecting the dots between Afro-Caribbean rhythms and the progressive jazz tradition.

Jorge Sylvester ACE [Afro-Caribbean Experimental] Collective is a group of improvising musicians created and led by saxophonist/composer/arranger Jorge Sylvester. An extension of the ACE Trio (alto saxophone, electric bass and drums), the ACE Collective includes three additional independent rhythmic and melodic elements; the voice, trumpet and piano expanding its harmonic colors, its scope of sound and its textural capacity. The music is original and draws from the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora, jazz and the free music art forms.

The ACE Collective utilizes the rich spectrum of rhythms from the Caribbean and other Latin American countries as a vehicle to create new and undiscovered rhythmic melodic lines within the jazz tradition.

Collective and Free improvisation is an essential part of the concept utilizing juxtaposition and retrograde as main components of the experimentation.

Afro – Caribbean rhythms and their relationship to avant – garde music form have not been documented. Unlike the work of composers such as Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and others who used Afro – Caribbean rhythms in their works without experimenting with their rhythmic pulse, the compositional structure of the music of the ACE Collective goes beyond an absolute interpretation, and delves deeper into the core of the rhythms breaking them down and expanding the pulse into a myriad of complex configurations that tap into the original primal properties of the music itself, reflecting its history and its origin, unraveling its many transmutations and adaptations over time and discovering new possibilities and applications within the tradition itself that are related to the avant–garde.



WEBSITE:

<http://www.jorgesylvesteracemusic.com/>

BANDCAMP:

<https://jorgesylvestermusic.bandcamp.com/>

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