



PRESS BIOGRAPHY · FULL

Joris Teepe

Bass · Bandleader · Composer · Educator
New York / Amsterdam

“23 albums as a leader, over 65 as a sideman, more than 100 own compositions.”

Bassist, bandleader, recording artist, composer, producer, educator

Dutch born Joris Teepe graduated in 1991 from the Amsterdam Conservatory and moved to New York shortly thereafter. He has been travelling between New York and Amsterdam ever since, and since 2013 keeps an additional residence in Amsterdam. Arriving in 1992 with just his bass and a suitcase, he quickly became a bassist in great demand.

Bassist

Teepe has developed an extensive knowledge of every aspect of jazz performance and never denies his artistic vision and adventurous personality. He has worked with the “who is who in jazz” — Benny Golson, Lee Konitz, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker and Barry Harris — but is best known for his nine-year stint with the Rashied Ali Quintet (2000–2009). In 2004 he was nominated for the Bird Award at the North Sea Jazz Festival in the category “Artist deserving wider recognition”.

ORCHESTRAS

The Metropole Orchestra (directed by Bill Holman and Vince Mendoza), The Brooklyn Big Band, The Romanian Radio Orchestra, The North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, Joris Teepe Big Band.

TRUMPET

Benny Bailey, Tom Harrell, Randy Brecker, Ack van Rooijen, Ingrid Jensen, Scott Wentholt, Valery Ponomarev, Brian Lynch, James Zollar, Jim Rotondi, Joe Magnarelli, Ryan Kisor, Jarmo Hoogendijk, Alex Sipiagin, Jeremy Pelt, Philip Harper.

SAXOPHONE

Benny Golson, Abraham Burton, Chris Potter, Don Braden, Frank Lowe, Steve Wilson, Tim Armacost, Jasper Blom, Dale Barlow, Craig Bailey, Yuri Honing, Rick Margitza, Bob Mintzer, Vincent Herring, Bruce Williams, Ralph Lalama, Craig Handy, Eric Alexander, Greg Tardy, Stacy Dillard, Sonny Fortune, Joe Lovano, Lee Konitz, Mark Gross, George Garzone, Seamus Blake, Johannes Enders, Donny McCaslin.

PIANO

James Williams, Marc Copland, George Cables, Barry Harris, Dado Moroni, Cyrus Chestnut, Darrell Grant, Mulgrew Miller, Mike LeDonne, D.D. Jackson, David Hazeltine, Harold Mabern, Xavier Davis, George Colligan, Kenny Werner, Kevin Hays, Andy LaVerne, Ted Rosenthal, Sam Yahel, Radam Schwartz, Renee Rosnes, David Berkman, Michiel Borstlap, Antonio Ciacca, Jon Davis, Jonny King.

DRUMS

Rashied Ali, Billy Hart, Billy Drummond, Cecil Brooks III, Carl Allen, Matt Wilson, Ralph Peterson, Gene Jackson, Winard Harper, Shingo Okudaira, Adam Nussbaum, Lewis Nash, Howard Curtis, Newman Taylor Baker, Eric McPherson, Ari Hoenig, Nasheet Waits, Tony Reedus, Rick Hollander, Bill Goodwin, Tim Horner, Mike Clark, Steve Johns, George Schuller.

GITAR, TROMBONE, VIBES & VOICE

Peter Bernstein, John Hart, Ron Jackson, Jesse van Ruller, Mike Stern, Randy Johnston, Russell Malone, Jonathan Kreisberg, Paul Bollenback, Freddie Bryant, John Abercrombie, Ron Affif; Jason Jackson, Frank Lacy, Slide Hampton, Conrad Herwig, Robin Eubanks, Earl McIntyre, Steve Davis; Frits Landesbergen, Monte Croft, Joe Locke; Andy Bey, Dena DeRose, Roseanna Vitro, Kevin Mahogany, Judy Silvano, Mary Pearson, Miles Griffith, JD Walter, Fay Claassen, Deborah Brown.

Band leader & sideman

Teepe has always had the urge to lead his own bands. The Joris Teepe Quartet — sometimes duo, trio, quintet or even big band — has existed for over twenty-five years and many of the world's greatest players have been part of it. He tours the United States and Europe as a leader and has recorded 23 albums as a leader or co-leader and over 65 as a sideman. One of his ongoing projects is "Trio of Liberty", co-led by Don Braden, marking more than 25 years of musical cooperation; Down Beat selected their CD "Conversations" as one of the best albums of 2017. Another project is "In the Spirit of Rashied Ali".

Composer & arranger

Teepe's work as a writer and arranger makes a substantial contribution to his artistic statement. Over 100 of his original compositions have been recorded, and in 2024 he published the "Joris Teepe Real Book" with 96 of his own tunes, supported by the GeniusJamTracks app. His arrangements of Benny Golson's "Whisper Not", Billy Strayhorn's "Chelsea Bridge" and Randy Brecker's "Some Skunk Funk" are well known in the jazz community.

He has arranged music for singers such as Deborah Brown, Fay Claassen, Nana and Mathilde Santing, and writes extensively for large ensembles: a full repertoire for big band and nonet, plus larger pieces for jazz quartet and symphony orchestra. The orchestral works were premiered in October 2007 with the North Netherlands Symphony, conducted by Jan Stulen and featuring Don Braden, Gene Jackson and David Berkman. The big band repertoire was premiered in April 2008 with the National Radio Big Band in Bucharest, Romania. His own big band in New York was founded shortly after, and the first CD "We Take No Prisoners" was released on Challenge Records. Since then he travels with his book of original big band repertoire as a guest with big bands around the world, playing bass and conducting at the same time. He also wrote several symphonic pieces including "Work, Work, Work" for full symphony orchestra, big band and choir, conducted by John Clayton.

Record producer

Teepe has produced recordings for a variety of jazz artists, among them Barend Middelhoff "Soil" (A-Records), Joey Berkley "Made in NYC" (A-Records), Fay Claassen "Rhythms & Rhymes" (Jazz'N Pulz), Mathilde Santing "New Amsterdam" (Sony) and albums by Ted Rosenthal, Jorg Kaaij and Deborah Brown for Jazzimpuls. He arranged much of the material for these sessions and worked with musicians such as Toots Thielemans, Mike Stern, Bob Mintzer, Kurt Rosenwinkel and Dick Oatts. In 2005 and 2006 he produced two albums for Korean pianist Mi Jung Lim, featuring Billy Drummond, Tom Harrell, Steve Wilson, Greg Tardy, George Garzone and Donny McCaslin, and in 2008 an album for Dutch pianist Robert Bosscher featuring Billy Hart, Mark Turner and Scott Wentholt.

Jazz educator

From 2001 to 2019 Joris Teepe was Director of Jazz Studies at the Prince Claus Conservatory in Groningen, the Netherlands. He is the inventor and founder of "New York comes to Groningen", a unique system of jazz education with a rotating visiting faculty from New York teaching at this international university in Europe. He has been bass instructor at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the "Jazz for Teens" programme, and is a member of the faculty at Queens College in New York as adjunct bass professor.

Teepe started teaching workshops out of his basement in Park Slope, Brooklyn in the nineties and still teaches workshops and master classes around the world, including Litchfield Jazz Camp (Connecticut), Jazzinty (Slovenia), Peter Herbolzheimer European Jazz Academy (Germany) and Orsara Jazz (Italy).