

Mini Bio

Zan Stewart is a lifelong musician who has been playing saxophone since 1960 and who has been leading bands since 1967, up to and including his current Zan Stewart Band.

Over the course of his musical career, Zan has been fortunate to have shared bandstands with such jazz notables as pianists Albert Dailey, Rob Schneiderman, Keith Saunders, and Tardo Hammer; bassists Earl May, Paul Gill, Bill Moring, and Adam Gay; drummers Jimmy Cobb, Gary Frommer, Tony Reedus, Ron Marabuto, and Clarence Johnston; saxophonists Gary Bartz, Art Pepper, Wilbur Brown, Pat Britt, Dewey Redman, and Joe Lovano; trumpeters Joe Magnarelli and Sal Marquez; and guitarists Dave Stryker, Bob DeVos, John Hart, and Yotam Silberstein.

Stewart is also the leader of the Zan Stewart Band. The group has released its first CD, ***The Street Is Making Music***, on Stewart's own Mobo Dog Records. The CD has received numerous upbeat reviews and has received airplay on radio stations nationwide.

Stewart is also a longtime dedicated and insightful teacher. He has previously taught in Los Angeles and New Jersey, and currently has a home studio in Richmond. He teaches beginning to advanced saxophone and jazz improvisation. A typical student response: "Thank you so much, Zan, for enriching me with your knowledge."

Stewart's capacity as a teacher stems partly from the wonderful teachers he himself has had. These include Juilliard-trained altoist Victor Morosco, the noted tenor saxophonist Lew Tabackin, and the underrated teacher and saxophonist Charlie Oreña – who had studied with the renowned studio and classical musician Phil Sobel, founder of the West Coast Saxophone Quartet.

In another aspect of his career, from 1975 to 2010, Zan was a dedicated, front-line music journalist who covered jazz for such top level publications as the Los Angeles Times and the Newark Star-Ledger daily newspapers, and the jazz magazine Down Beat, to name just three, writing about such greats as Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, and Wayne Shorter as well as solid, lesser-known members of the local community. Zan has also written many sets of liner notes;

one of these – “Out There: The Angelic Passion of Eric Dolphy,” a biographical essay contained in the box set Eric Dolphy: The Complete Prestige Recordings – earned him the celebrated ASCAP–Deems Taylor Award.