

Bob Magnusson

Born in New York City on February 24, 1947, Bob Magnusson was raised in a musical family. He studied French horn for 12 years, and in his teenage years concurrently studied the classical guitar which led to the electric bass, and performing in rock and rhythm & blues bands. At the age of 19 his interests turned to jazz and an intense study of the string bass.

Two years later in 1968, within months of moving to Las Vegas, Bob joined the Buddy Rich band. After a one year stint with Buddy Rich he returned to Las Vegas where he worked in the many show bands and as a member of the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra. In 1971 Bob became a member of Sarah Vaughan's trio for two years (with drummer Jimmy Cobb) which provided him many rich musical experiences. After this he moved to San Diego and was a member of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.

In 1975 Bob rejoined Sarah Vaughan and moved to the Los Angeles area to be more involved with the varied Los Angeles music scene. He was busy in the studios recording music for jazz recordings, television, films and jingles. Bob's personal discography lists in excess of 150 albums and CD's. Counted among his most memorable experiences were performing and touring with the Art Pepper Quartet, the Benny Golson Quartet and the Joe Farrell Quartet. During this time Bob enjoyed making several recordings as leader under the Discovery label.

Relocating in San Diego in 1983, Bob has enjoyed the varied experiences of playing at the local venues, participating in studio work, teaching and performing on the road with many varied artists. He has recorded for a number of fine pop artists, including: Linda Ronstadt, (with whom he worked for three years) Natalie Cole, Neil Diamond, Bonnie Raitt, 10,000 Maniacs and Madonna. He has also performed with many jazz artists including: Hank Jones, Cedar Walton, Jimmy Heath, Art Farmer, Kenny Barron, Freddie Hubbard, Slide Hampton, Billy Higgins, Carl Fontana, Tommy Flanagan, Mike Wofford, Holly Hofmann, Kenny Burrell, Roger Kellaway, Randy Porter, Ernie Watts, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Peter Erskine, Bobby Shew, Bill Mays, Shorty Rogers, Bob Cooper, Lou Donaldson, Clifford Jordan, George Cables, Victor Lewis, Joe Pass, Laurindo Almeida, Bud Shank. Over the years Bob has done extensive traveling, performing in many of the world's finest concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He has made many trips to Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Central and South America with various artists.

Bob has also received notoriety as a teacher and clinician. He was an active faculty member of Musician's Institute in Hollywood, California from 1977-1996. In 1998 he joined the faculty at San Diego Mesa Community College and the Coronado School of the Arts where he teaches high school and college students about harmony and theory, jazz improvisation, etc. He is also an adjunct professor at Point Loma Nazarene University teaching Private String Bass. He also enjoys working with private students. For the past two summers, Bob has been an instructor at the Centrum School of Creative Arts in Port Townsend, Washington. Adding to his many achievements, Bob wrote a book "The Art of the Walking Bass" which was published by the Hal Leonard Publishing Company in 1999.

Leonard Feather of the Los Angeles Times wrote: "His solos are models of creative, spontaneous artistry. His tone is full, rich and consistent; he is one of those

masters who can achieve effortlessly any phrase that comes to his mind. His basic function as a rhythm player is fulfilled no less resourcefully when the others solo..."

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Selected Quotations

"Magnusson, an exceptional player..."

"Startlingly virtuosic bass work by Bob Magnusson..."

"Technically impeccable solos..."

"Bob Magnusson, whose upright bass solos were richly inventive..."

Leonard Feather, Los Angeles Times

"The work of bassist Bob Magnusson has long been recognized in this town as being some of jazz music's best. He is clearly one of the more inventive players, with unflappable instincts and an awesome technique, who consistently provides the necessary support demanded of him by a variety of Jazz"

James Liska, Daily News

"When you mention jazz bassists who live in California, Bob Magnusson is one of the first on everyone's mind."

Joe Rothman, West Coast Jazz Party

"Magnusson's classical training and years as a busy Los Angeles studio player allow him to finesse any piece of music on sight. He can drive an up-tempo bebop tune, deliver a delicate bowed solo on a ballad or slip easily into a samba." His uniqueness is a startling mix of force and gentleness, a quiet attack that declares how fully the lower octaves can be lifted firmly to the framework."

Jim Merod, Jazz Now

Selected Discography

- Skateboard Park, Joe Farrell, Xanadu, 174 Record/XCD-1227 CD
- Among Friends, Art Pepper, Interplay, IP-771
- Are You Real?, Benny Golson and Curtis Fuller, CBS/Sony, 25AP-7916
- Flute Talk, Sam Most with Joe Farrell, Xanadu, 173
- Guides to Growing Up, Horace Silver, Silvestro Productions, SPR-I 01
- Yesterday, Today and Forever, Shorty Rogers, Bud Shank, Concord, CJ-223
- Mark Murphy Sings Nat King Cole, Mark Murphy, Muse, MR-5308
- Song for Janet Lee, Bob Magnusson, Discovery, DS-912
- Souvenirs, Mundell Lowe, Jazz Alliance, CD:TJA-!0011
- Bud Shank Plays the Music of Bill Evans, Fresh Sound, FSR 5012CD
- Outra Vez, Laurindo Almeida, Concord Picante, CCD-4497
- After You, Jeru, Bud Shank, Fresh Sound, FSR 5026 CD
- Heavyweights, Bobby Shew and Carl Fontana, Mama Foundation, CD:MMF-1013

