

Jon Burr

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Education

- 1975 **University of Illinois** Bachelor of Music Degree
1969 **Berklee School of Music**, Summer program graduate (C3)

Books/Monographs Authored

- 2009 **Physical and Mental Programming for the Improvising Bassist**
(work in progress)

Exploration of practicing procedures involving transfer of awareness from the “thinking brain” to the “feeling brain” while practicing; also learning musical structure “by the numbers,” eliminating transposition difficulty. It offers extensive description of physical issues in playing the bass, including technique and address of the instrument.

- 2008 **The Untold Secret of Melodic Bass Playing** (under review at Mel Bay Publishing)

This offers an explanation of how bass lines “work,” describing the role and responsibilities of the bassist from a musical, functional and energetic standpoint. The book also addresses traditions in rhythm from the “oral tradition” in jazz, offering documentation of information not yet written elsewhere in my experience.

- 2002 monograph: **Rhythmic and Melodic Development in the Construction of Bass Lines** jbQ Media (self-published)

This monograph was prepared to give an overview to “campers” of a course of study to develop basic awareness of the role of the bass and avenues to explore in an improvisatory context; the students included players who had previously been exposed primarily to classical music or bluegrass

- 2002 monograph: **Another Look at Melodic Construction in Improvisation**

jbQ Media (self-published) This book describes an approach to improvisation involving the ornamentation of harmonic tones in the creation of melody. Standard jazz pedagogy to date has mostly involved scale patterns and modes, but this approach yields results that sound much more like what jazz musicians actually play.

Awards and Honors

- 1977 **Talent Deserving Wider Recognition** – Downbeat Critic’s Poll
1973 **Best Bassist**, runner-up, Collegiate Jazz Festival, Notre Dame University, Indiana (winner was John Clayton)
1972 **Best Bassist**, Collegiate Jazz Festival, Notre Dame University, Indiana (runner-up was Stanley Clarke)

Teaching Positions Held

1975-2009	Private bass instructor, metro NY area
2008	Lecturer, New Jersey Jazz Society “Meet the Artist” Series
2002-2005	Director, bass faculty – Mark O’Connor String Conference, San Diego, CA
1999-2006	Clinician – numerous clinics while on tour with the Hot Swing Trio
1972-1975	Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois; jazz band director (4 th Band), theory and improvisation instructor, jazz bass instructor
1972-1975	Faculty, the Illinois Summer Youth Music Camps; bass instructor, improvisation teacher, ensemble coach

Competencies in Related Areas

1993-2009 Sole Proprietor of jbQ

jbQ offers music production and marketing from conception to marketplace. Competencies include music notation, audio recording, production, and mastering (Pro Tools, Digital Performer, Logic, Finale, BIAS Peak), as well as desktop publishing (Photoshop, Illustrator, Quark ExPress, InDesign, Flash, GoLive, Dreamweaver). Since 1996, jbQ has assisted over 100 clients in getting their recorded material to market, from mixing, editing and mastering, to package artwork and graphic design, to replicated copies delivered to the customer, to electronic distribution and marketing techniques. jbQ also offers consulting and educational services, teaching music software and production techniques.

Objectives

To draw from over 30 years of musical performance, teaching and writing to contribute in a meaningful way to development of young musicians; and to become a contributing faculty member in the University community.

Personal Goals

I have undertaken private study in composition with Edgar Grana (teacher to Mike Brecker, Mike Stern and others) with the objective of creating a library of orchestral arrangements of his music from the “Just Can’t Wait” CD/DVD release. I also intend to write a bass concerto.

I have the desire to obtain a Master’s Degree and eventually a Doctorate in Music Pedagogy.

Professional Biography

“Jon Burr has toured and performed with **Tony Bennett, Stephane Grappelli, Mark O’Connor’s “Hot Swing,” Rita Moreno, Barbara Cook, Eartha Kitt, Chet Baker, Stan Getz, Horace Silver, Buddy Rich**, among many others. He has held the bass chair

in the Broadway productions of **Me and My Girl**, **The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public**, and substituted at others including **Grand Hotel**, **Jerome Robbins Broadway**, **The Will Rogers Follies**, **Blood Brothers**, **Song and Dance**. He has played in the bass sections of the **American Symphony Orchestra**, the **American Composers' Orchestra** and the **West Side Symphony**. He currently leads his own group, writes and produces his own material, and tours with the **Houston Person Quartet**. His "Just Can't Wait" CD/DVD was released in early 2009 to favorable reviews."

Memberships

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| 1968 - | Musicians Local 802 |
| 1991 - | International Society of Bassists |
| 1996 - | BMI (writer and publisher member) |
| 1984 - 2000 | American Society of Music Copyists |