

**Todd Brunel** is a critically acclaimed clarinetist and sax player and the director of music at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, NH. He performs extensively as a classical and jazz musician, working with The Irish Tenors, WGBH Television, The Greater Boston Stage Company, The Central Square Theater, The Reagle Music Theater of Greater Boston and The Wheelock Family Theater. His current original music projects include Know Orchestra, Peter Cassino and Friends, The David Haas Group: Coalition of the Willing, Tom Casale's No Bad Parts, The Roaring Foxes and Jerome Deupree's Listen to This. He was an original founding member of Musaner (Music of Armenia re-imagined), The Lilli Lewis Project and The Eric Hofbauer Quintet and has recorded with Andy Pratt, the Dylan Jack Quartet, the Last Taxi with Pat Battstone, the Sonic Explorers and the avant-funk band, The Circadian Rhythm Kings. Additional performance credits include: Music At Eden's Edge, The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra Salon Series, Sal Baglio, Laurence 'Butch' Morris, Jonathan Stout and his Campus 5. Garrison Fewell, Louis Bellson, John McLellan, Dave Maxwell, Daniel Carter, Bobby Watson, John Tchicai and Guo Yhazhi. Brunel is the director of the Vortex Series for New and Improvised Music and has been awarded grants by the Somerville, Cambridge and Massachusetts Cultural Councils.

**Anthony Leva** is a multi-disciplinary artist & educator in Cambridge, MA. Most comfortable on upright bass, Anthony is known for his playful, responsive and supportive bass lines. He has recorded on over 30 albums to date and regularly performs with the Unima Award winning puppetry troupe the Gottabees, as well as the Dylan Jack Quartet, Charlie Kohlhas's Explorer's Club, Eric Hofbauer, and the Singer Mali Trio. He is currently on faculty at the Longy School and over the last 15 years he has had the great fortune to perform and tour extensively throughout the USA, Canada, Europe and India. In 2019, he wrote and honorably received a USAI grant to travel to India to perform at the AHA! Theatre Festival for Children. Anthony is the community music director for Tunefoolery, a non-profit dedicated to a unique and courageous community of musicians engaged in their personal mental health journeys.

**Keith Gibson** is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, has done graduate work in music education at the Boston Conservatory, and received an MFA in music composition at Vermont College of Fine Arts. He has also studied with percussion master Alan Dawson. His Boston-based band euJAZZ performs his original as well as standard jazz, R&B, and calypso music. Keith's national credits include Branford & Delfayo Marsalis, Melba Moore, Barry Harris, Jon Faddis, Donald Harrison, and Don Braden. Other performance credits include the John Coltrane Memorial Concert, Boston Globe Jazz Festival, WGBH radio's "Eric In The Evening," an evening of all original music--to a sellout crowd--at Scullers Jazz Club, The HarvardRadcliffe 25th Reunion, and, in France, the Toulon Jazz Festival. Keith currently resides, teaches, and performs in central Vermont.

**Dei Xhrist** is a multidisciplinary artist using sound, performance, and sculpture. She began performing music in 2006, spinning loops and lock grooves on multiple record players. Voice was initially added as a background element, supporting Theremin and less conventional sound sources to create audio cut-ups and soundscapes. Xhrist's voice, now her dominating instrument, has been favorably compared to Diamanda Galas. She uses glossolalia, vocal drones, jazz, lounge, and *belle voce* with a graceful stage presence that has been known to evolve in to a physical assault past the fourth wall. Xhrist has performed at XFest (MA), Frantasia Festival of Out Music and Arts, Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival, and International Society for Improvised Music. She has also performed in Machine5 Theatre Works at FringeNYC and PortFringe.

**Peter Cassino** began studying the piano at age 7 in Queens, New York. When he was 12, a family friend gave him a boxed set of The Hot Club of France recordings, which featured Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. This music had a profound effect on him, and shortly after hearing these recordings, he switched his piano studies from classical to jazz piano. His primary piano teacher during this time was pianist and vibraphonist Eddie Costa. As a young teenager Peter played with various bands during the summer months at several hotels in the Catskill Mountains. Upon graduating from high school in Manhattan, he spent two years taking extension courses at Julliard School of Music while playing gigs and local jam sessions. In 1961 at the young age of 21, Peter joined the growing number of aspiring artists and musicians who moved to Europe to grow and develop their creativity. He started his career in West Berlin and worked with his piano trio and had the privilege of playing with several prominent musicians who were also living in West Berlin during that time. Among them were trumpeter Benny Bailey, alto saxophonist Leo Wright, and drummer Joe Harris. When he returned to the United States in 1969, he completed his formal music studies. He received his BA in piano from School for the Arts at Boston University, piano studies with Leon Tumarkin and Anthony di Bonaventura. And completed a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory where he studied with Jackie Byard and George Russell.

Peter resides in Boston and has performed with Marty Ehrlich, Andrew D'Angelo, Matt Wilson, Oscar Noriega, Bob Moses, Ed Schuller, George Schuller, Stan Strickland, Charlie Kohlhase, Paquito D'Rivera, and others. He's been awarded two performance grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and was part of the touring roster of the New England Foundation for the Arts for over 10 years. He has also performed in Japan, Moscow, and Armenia. Peter has taught at Dean Junior College in Franklin, Massachusetts, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, The All Newton Music School, The Community Music Center in Boston, and other institutions. In 1979 at the invitation of Longy Director Roman Totenberg Peter started teaching Longy's first course offerings in Jazz Improvisation which developed into Longy's first Jazz Studies Department. In 1996, the department developed a new curriculum and was renamed The Department of Modern American Music to reflect its philosophy as well as its expanded mission, and in 2019 the department was again renamed "The Department of Jazz and Contemporary Music."

Cellist **Glynis Lomon** went to Bennington College to continue her classical cello studies in 1973 where she met and began performing with musician/composer Bill Dixon. The music of Dixon's ensemble combined the exploration of the frontier of sound that she loved with rich rhythms, emotional expression, and the art and science of improvisation. Glynis has been privileged to play with Bill Dixon, *Arthur Brooks*, *Jimmy Lyons*, Cecil Taylor, *Butch Morris*, Syd Smart, *William Parker*, *Greta Buck*, Dennis Warren, Lowell Davidson, and many others. Recently she has been playing with pianist Eric Zinman in collaborations with Mario Rechtern, Sabir Mateen, *Blaise Siwula*, Laurence Cook and others.

Singer, saxophonist, flutist, actor, **Stan Strickland** has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, New Zealand and the former Soviet Union. In addition to numerous radio and television appearances, Stan has performed in many clubs and concert halls, including Jordan and Symphony Halls in Boston, Carnegie Recital Hall and Town Hall in New York, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He also has performed with the Boston Pops Touring Ensemble. His work has been featured on recordings by Bob Moses, Marty Erlich, Webster Lewis and Brute Force. Stan has also performed with jazz greats Yusef Lateef, Pharoah Sanders, Herbie Mann, Danilo Perez, Shirley Scott and Marlena Shaw. His acting experience includes the leading role in the Boston Art Group's production of "Harlem Renaissance", which toured across New England, and the current production of a play Stan conceived called "Coming Up For Air: An Autojazzography", a Vinyard Playhouse production, with performances on Marthas Vineyard and in Boston at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

Stan has a M.A. degree from Lesley College in Expressive Arts Therapy, and is an adjunct professor there, having taught classes in music and movement therapy. He also teaches at Berklee College of Music, Tufts University and Longy School of Music. Stan is Co-Executive Director of Express Yourself. It is centered on the fact that serious art-making has tremendous restorative powers, and since 1988, the multidisciplinary team of professional artists, working in partnership with adolescents in public mental health residential facilities, has been producing multimedia performance pieces that celebrate this fact. In 1991 Stan received the Martin Luther King Music Achievement Award from the city of Boston, in 1994 the Cambridge Favorite Musician Award and in 1996 an award for Exemplary Service to the mentally ill from the Massachusetts State House.