

# **MARSHALL MCDONALD**

## **SAXOPHONES, CLARINET AND FLUTE**



### ***Band Leader, Composer and Clinician***

Whether playing Lead alto with The Count Basie Orchestra in venues all over the world, or playing tenor saxophone with Paquito D’Rivera or baritone saxophone with Abdullah Ibrahim or clarinet solos with The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Marshall McDonald upholds the traditions of Jazz Music created by the jazz masters. A seasoned reedman, having played 30 years in the New York City area, he is well known for his ability to play all of the saxophones and woodwinds.

***“Marshall is the only player I know who has played four of the sax chairs in the Count Basie Orchestra AND all five sax chairs in the Duke Ellington Orchestra” --John Williams, Count Basie saxophone legend***

Marshall was offered the baritone saxophone chair with the great Lionel Hampton in 1991, a position he quickly accepted and toured the world with Lionel, playing jazz festivals and concerts in The United States, Europe, Canada, South America and Asia. Mr. Hampton eventually asked Marshall to play both tenor sax, alto sax and clarinet solos in the band and featured him on clarinet in a small group on a TV appearance on The Conan O’Brien Show. Marshall stayed with Lionel for 10 years, also playing at his memorial at Riverside Church in 2002, with guests George H. Bush, Charlie Rangel and Wynton Marsalis.

***“Marshall has that pure clarinet sound. He has that sound like the symphony guys!” Lionel Hampton***

Marshall performed a concert with The Sonny Constanzo Big Band where the guest artist was none other than Paquito D’Rivera. Paquito quickly hired Marshall to play in Dizzy Gillespie’s United Nation Orchestra, which Mr. D’Rivera was now leading. Marshall toured and recorded with this great band on alto, tenor, soprano and baritone for 4 years. During this time he also played alto saxophone with The Illinois Jacquet Big Band, lead alto with The Charli Persip Supersound Band, tenor saxophone with The Bobby Caldwell Band in New York City, and alto saxophone with The Chico O’Farrill Orchestra. Playing with Chico O’Farrill led to a close up in the Pierce Brosnan movie, The Thomas Crown Affair during the famous ballroom dance scene, and participation in the historic jazz movie, Calle 54. In addition, Marshall was asked to play lead alto by Frank Foster and the Loud Minority Big Band, in fact Mr. Foster was band leader of the Basie band at the time, and in 1994 asked Marshall to substitute for Kenny Hing in the Basie Band playing the first tenor chair. In addition, Marshall has played with The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and The Cab Calloway Orchestra on regular concerts in the New York area.

***“Marshall McDonald is an EXCELLENT musician. Great lead alto player and great tenor player. He is a First Class musician. I always enjoy talking to him and listening to him play.” –Vincent Herring***

Marshall has been a full time member of The Count Basie Orchestra for 15 years, the last ten of which has found him holding down the lead alto sax chair famously held by the great Marshal Royal. He first started in the band underneath lead alto player, Danny Turner, and Mr. Turner explained to him, “The style of lead playing in the Basie band was passed down from Marshal Royal to Bobby Plater and then to me.” Marshall had studied the Basie style while in music school at University of Pittsburgh, and now he was getting first hand knowledge from Danny Turner, Frank Foster, Kenny Hing and John Williams.

Musicians and critics have acknowledged that Marshall is an outstanding section player on all the saxophones and a well-schooled soloist coming out of the Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Sonny Rollins post-bop style of playing along with a mix of Johnny Hodges and Marshal Royal. Yet, Marshall began by playing clarinet at age 10, with his first years of studies on classical clarinet with Principal Clarinetist Thomas Thompson of The Pittsburgh Symphony at Carnegie-Mellon University, continuing with William Balawadger of Carnegie-Mellon University for 6

years and for 2 years with Paris Conservatory graduate Nestor Koval at Duquesne University. In two years Marshall was performing the Mozart Clarinet Concerto. But after hearing a Louis Armstrong recording with Barney Bigard playing clarinet, he announced to his father, I want to play jazz like that, and with that he also started studying the alto saxophone and flute.

***“Marshall has always done a GREAT job in my band!” –Charli Persip***

While at Fox Chapel High School in Pittsburgh, Marshall was Band President and played clarinet each year in the State, Regional and Honors bands, won the Outstanding Jazz Soloist award on alto saxophone with the Fox Chapel Stage Band at the Duquesne University Jazz Competition and he won the Louis Armstrong Award during his senior year at high school.

He studied biology and chemistry at Lafayette College for two years, and then studied music at The University of Pittsburgh with Dr. Nathan Davis. Marshall also studied with Miles Davis alumnus, George Coleman in New York City for two years, with Phil Woods protégé Mark Kirk and spent two years studying the Joe Allard sound production technique by his protégé, David Tofani.

While playing lead alto as a student in the University of Pittsburgh Jazz Band directed by Nathan Davis, guest artist, the great Joe Williams from the Count Basie Orchestra, once stopped the band and said to the saxophone section, “Hold on, play your parts like this cat on lead alto is playin’. What’s your name son?” “Marshall” was the reply. “Well you got the right name!” Joe exclaimed.

***“Marshall McDonald is the REAL DEAL.” –Tim Price***

Marshall has played soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone with the giants of music including Tony Bennett, Milt Jackson, Nina Simone, Freddie Hubbard, Rosemary Clooney, Frank Foster, Frank Wess, Charli Persip, Gerry Mulligan, Pete Christlieb, Diane Schuur, Bill Waltrous, Ronnie Cuber, Illinois Jacquet, Doc Cheatham, Ray Brown, Art Farmer, Hank Jones, Elvin Jones, Patti Austin, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Bobby Watson, Jon Hendricks, Geri Allen, Aretha Franklin, The Four Tops, Frankie Avalon, The Dells, The Temptations, Melba Moore, Wynton Marsalis, Jon Faddis, George Benson, Bob Berg, Paquito D’Rivera, Chico O’Farrill, Steve Turre, Lizz Wright, Jamie Callum, Ledisi and many others.

## **Performances**

Carnegie Hall - New York City  
The Kennedy Center  
The Sydney Opera House  
Royal Albert Hall  
Walt Disney Concert Hall - Los Angeles  
Dewan Philharmonik Hall – Kuala Lumpur  
Esplanade Concert Hall – Singapore  
Bunkyo Hall – Tokyo  
Hollywood Bowl – Los Angeles  
The Newport Jazz Festival  
The Monterey Jazz Festival  
The Montreal Jazz Festival  
The Nice Jazz Festival  
The JVC Jazz Festival  
The Playboy Jazz Festival  
The Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival  
Aoyama Jazz Initiative  
Blue Note New York  
Blue Note Tokyo  
Blue Note Osaka  
Blue Note Fukuoka  
Blue Note Milan  
Cotton Club – New York  
Cotton Club - Tokyo  
Birdland New York City  
Small's Jazz Club New York City  
The Iridium Jazz Club New York City  
Smoke Jazz Club New York City  
Tokyo TUC – Tokyo  
Motion Blue - Tokyo  
Yoshi's Jazz Club Oakland, California

## **Teaching and Clinic Experience**

University of Pittsburgh-Undergraduate Teaching Assistant  
Gines Cano Music School Faculty  
Syracuse University Jazz Clinic  
Master Class at Tokyo Fuchu Daini Elementary School, Tokyo, Japan  
Jazz Clinic Senzoku University  
Master Class Elementary and High Schools Anchorage, Alaska  
Master Class Johannesburg, South Africa  
Master Class Jazz Clinic Taipei, Taiwan

Master Class Clarinet, Vancouver, Canada  
Master Jazz Class, University of Virginia  
Master Sax Clinic, Waseda University  
Master Big Band Clinic Big Wing Orchestra  
Master Big Band Class Waseda High Society Orchestra  
2010 NAMM clinician and artist – Aizen Mouthpieces  
2011 NAMM clinician and artist – Yanagisawa Saxophones  
2012 NAMM clinician and artist – Yanagisawa Saxophones  
2011 Muzik Messe clinician and artist – Aizen Mouthpieces

**Recordings:**

The Count Basie Orchestra  
Basie is Back-Live in Japan  
The Count Basie Orchestra  
Ray Sings, Basie Swings (Billboard #1)  
The Count Basie Orchestra  
Singing, Swinging and Playing  
Tony Bennett and The Count Basie Orchestra  
A Swingin' Christmas  
The Count Basie Orchestra  
A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas  
Paquito D'Rivera and United Nation Orchestra  
A Night in Englewood  
Paquito D'Rivera and United Nation Orchestra  
Live at Manchester Craftsman Guild  
Paquito D'Rivera Big Band  
Tropicana Nights (Grammy Winner)  
The Chico O'Farrill Orchestra  
Heart of a Legend (Grammy Nominated)  
The Chico O'Farrill Orchestra  
Carambola  
The Lionel Hampton Orchestra  
90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
Michael Hill's Blues Mob  
Bloodlines  
The Nancie Banks Orchestra  
Out of It  
Hinton Battle  
Meets the Count Basie Orchestra  
Jamie Callum  
The Pursuit

Jamie Davis  
It's A Good Thing  
Jamie Davis  
Vibe over Perfection  
The Tony Corbiscello Big Band  
In Full Swing  
The George Gee Make-Believe Ballroom Orchestra  
Swingin' Live  
The George Gee Orchestra  
Settin' The Pace  
The George Gee Jump, Jive and Wailers  
If Dreams Come True  
John Dokes  
John Dokes Sings, George Gee Swings

**Movies and TV**

The Thomas Crown Affair  
Calle 54 with The Chico O'Farrill Orchestra  
Conan O'Brien Show with Lionel Hampton  
Austin City Limits with Lionel Hampton  
Michel Leeb and The Count Basie Orchestra

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