



DAVE SCHUMACHER

DIRECTOR OF JAZZ STUDIES



David Schumacher has been a touring musician and educator for more than 30 years. He has played and recorded with world renowned jazz artists such as vibraphonist Lionel Hampton, Harry Connick, Jr. as an original member of Connick's orchestra for 19 years, T. S. Monk On Monk, Tom Harrell Octet and Big Band, Art Blakey Big Band, and Mel Tormé among other jazz greats.

Mr. Schumacher has impressed audiences in over 460 cities in 41 countries on the live stage and on countless major television broadcasts. In the 1990s, he was the co-leader/co-arranger of Unit 17, a big band

composed of some of New York's finest jazz musicians. As a composer and leader, Mr. Schumacher has three CD's to his credit. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Rutgers University and a Master of Music in Jazz Performance from New Jersey City University.

Q: How did you get started in jazz?

A: I was in the band in middle school and heard professional musicians and older students performing and was drawn to the creativity and "the feel" inherent to jazz.

Q: Who or what was your greatest inspiration in music?

A: All the different musicians whom I was exposed to growing up playing such styles as Baroque, free jazz, Be Bop, swing, Afro-Cuban music, Indian music and many other world music styles.

Q: What should students focus on when learning jazz for the first time?

A: Listening, listening, listening...

Q: What do you like most about teaching at Wharton Arts?

A: I like the enthusiasm of the students and the high level of fellow faculty members.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for aspiring musicians?

A: Listen, practice and perform as much as possible with other musicians. Work to create a musical voice of your own.

Mr. Schumacher directs the NJYS Jazz program on Sunday afternoons and teaches saxophone and improvisation at the Performing Arts School on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information on private lessons and the NJYS jazz program, call 908-790-0700.