

Leo Traversa

■ Bassist ■ Educator ■ Author

170 Ludlow Street #2D, New York, N.Y. 10002
Tel: 917-992-0774, E-mail: ldtraversa@gmail.com

Education

- B.A., Bachelor of the Arts, Berklee College of Music 1982, Major in Instrumental Performance, Dean's List, 1981, 1982
- A.A.S. Five Towns College, Merrick, N.Y. 1979, Major in Performance and Composition, Dean's List, Five Towns Big Band, Guitar Ensemble
- Half Hollow Hills High School East 1977, Major in Art

Teaching History

Music Associate, Music Department, Columbia University, New York. 2006-present.

- Private bass instruction, concerts for faculty and students.
- Columbia Business School's "Leadership Jazz" program which works with international executives in establishing connections between Jazz performance and business relationships.

Teaching Artist, Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections Program. 2001-2011.

- Community outreach events, including concerts and songwriting workshops at hospitals, community centers, juvenile homes and prisons

Clinician, Bass Immersion Day 2009

- Taught classes in African and South American Grooves
- Performed faculty concerts along with Will Lee and Patrick Pfieffer at the Bitter End

Founding Faculty Member, The Bass Collective, New York. 1999-present.

- Co-founded The Bass Collective and instruct with John Patitucci, Victor Bailey and Lincoln Goines.
- Lectures, classes, performance instruction, and private lessons.
- Wrote the curriculums for African Pop, Caribbean and Odd Meter Fusion classes.
- Teach Jazz, Brazilian, Latin and R+B/Funk classes
- Authored two instructional books for Carl Fischer Publications and The Collective entitled *Afro Caribbean and Brazilian Rhythms for Bass* and *Fusion: A Study in Contemporary Music for the Bass*. Completed text for a third independent book, *Five*

Concepts in World Rhythms, on the subject of world music and the various skills needed to play all African influenced music including African, Caribbean, Latin and Brazilian styles.

Visiting Artist, Berklee College of Music, Boston. 1996, 1998

- Clinics and Performances in World Rhythms for Bass

Faculty Member, The Drummer's Collective, New York. 1987-1999

- Lectures, classes, performance instruction.

Adjunct Professor, City College of New York. 1997-1999.

- Bass instruction.

Publications

Fusion: A Study in Contemporary Music for Bass 2007 Carl Fischer, Collective Contemporary Style Series

Afro-Caribbean + Brazilian Rhythms for the Bass 2007 Carl Fischer, Collective Contemporary Styles Series

World Rhythms [Online] Available at:

http://digilander.libero.it/mattbalani/page2/files/page2_26.pdf

Performance History

2001 - present

- Currently touring with nine-time all Ireland violin champion **Eileen Ivers** at major venues, festivals, universities and symphony halls. Concerts include performances with the world renowned Cleveland Orchestra and several other major symphony orchestras as well as a multi media presentation entitled "Beyond the Bog Road" detailing the influence of Irish Americans on North American music styles such as Bluegrass, Cajun, French Canadian and Appalachian.
- Ongoing performances with Brazilian/Jazz artists **Kenia** and **Ivan Lins** and African artist and humanitarian **Angelique Kidjo**
- Began a long association in 2001 that is ongoing with **Chris Washburn**, musician and professor of music at Columbia University, in his **SYOTOS Band** of N.Y. Latin Jazz all stars. The band performed weekly for ten years at the legendary Nuyorican Poet's Cafe and uptown jazz club, Smoke as well as recording three acclaimed CD's.

- Ongoing performances with two of New York's best big bands; **Tommy Igoe's Birdland Big Band** and the **Bobby Sanabria Big Band**.
- Bassist for the historic July 2010 re-creation of **Larry Harlow's** groundbreaking 1977 recording "La Raza Latina". The Lincoln Center concert featured over fifty musicians under the direction of Larry Harlow and included Ruben Blades and Bobby Sanabria.
- Performances and multiple recordings with, **Kenia, The New York Voices, Aster Aweke**, Downbeat Poll and Gershwin award winner **Don Byron**, Swiss jazz artist **Marc Wagnon**, French pop artist **Bernard Levallier**, **Paul Meyers with Helio Alves and Donny McCaslin**, **Mandara** featuring **Valerie Naranjo** of SNL and **Barry Olson, John Margolis, Mary Gatchell, Rebecca Fanya**, 2009 Fingerstyle Guitar Champion **Mark Sganga**, and **Joe Diamond**
- Performances with **The Caribbean Jazz project, Leo Gandelman, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Oscar Castro Nieves, Phil Woods, Marlina Shaw, Leslie Uggams, Maucha Adnet, Tony Cedras**
- Annual performances at Pittsburg's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Seven Springs Jazz Festival with **Jay Ashby** and **Marty Ashby**.
- Toured with **Steve Kimock** - at major festivals in the U.S. and venues in Japan.
- Performances with legendary South African artist **Dorothy Masuku**, pianist and arranger **Oscar Hernandez**, and guitarist/composer **Martino Atangana**, and singer **Kaissa**, both from Cameroon.
- Toured Africa with **Minu Cinelu**.

1990-2000

- Toured internationally with **Don Byron and his Music for Six Musicians** project throughout Europe and the U.S. featuring concerts at the Monterey Jazz Festival and several week long stints at the Village Vanguard in New York. Performed in Mr. Byron's "Bug Music" for juniors concert series throughout the U.K.

1997-1999

- Performed with the **Cesar Camargo Mariano Quartet** including concerts at the Montreaux Jazz, Heinekin and Chivas Jazz Festivals in Brazil featuring **Milton Nascimento, Michael Brecker, Diane Reeves and Ivan Lins**.
- Several tours of Germany under own name with a band of Germany's best musicians, with some concerts featuring **Dave Valentin** on flute.
- Performances with Brazilian artist and composer **Joyce, Bill Watrous**, jazz guitar legend **Herb Ellis, Joanne Brackeen, Eliane Elias, Claudio Roditi** and others.
- Recordings with **Gerry Mulligan, Don Byron, The N.Y. Voices, Astrud Gilberto**, Japanese artists **Hirai Ken** and **Aida Shoko** in Tokyo, **Eileen Ivers, Kenia** and many others.

1990-1994

- Toured and recorded with **Astrud Gilberto** throughout Europe, Japan, Indonesia, U.S.

- Made several visits to Brazil, performing with **Toninho Horta** in several concerts and television shows.

1985 - 1990

- Toured internationally with The **Tania Maria** Band, throughout Europe, South America, U.S., Asia and the Caribbean, including performances at the Montreaux , Lugano and North Sea Jazz Festivals and Blue Note clubs in N.Y.C. and Tokyo, Japan.
- Performed and recorded in New York City and abroad with various international artists including **Ben E. King** in the U.S. and Japan, **Gato Barbieri**, **The New York Voices**, **Herbie Mann**.
- Performed in the Broadway pit of "**Oh Calcutta**" and on several TV shows in Europe, the U.S. and Mexico.

Performance Video

- **Cesar Camargo Mariano, Dianne Reeves**, 1997. Freedom Dance, Heineken Jazz Festival, *Sao Paolo, Brazil* [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Catherinecassis?blend=1&ob=5-p/u/0/iQpijyvfSQY>
- **Tania Maria**, 1987. Funky Tambourine, *Blue Note, New York* [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld8q-3UHRW8>
- **Don Byron Six Musicians**, 1995. Heathcliff Slocum Pt 2, *Monterey Jazz Festival, Monterey, CA* [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6T-UQzql0c>
- **Marc Wagnon**, 2010 Embarquement [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZnlbigzxHU>
- **Frank Colon Band**, 1996. Superstition [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uywl7JX6lg>
- **Eillen Ivers**, 2007. Bygone Days Sound-check. [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD3ln-ybR0E>
- **Larry Harlow**, 2010. La Raza Latina, *Lincoln Center, New York* [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V10a-P2ewjs>
- **Michael Brecker, Cesar Camargo Mariano**, 1997. Alia, Heineken Jazz Festival, *Sao Paolo, Brazil* [Online] Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVC3M2MchkM>

Recordings

- KENIA - *Kenia Celebrates Dorival Caymmi* 2010, *Simply Kenia* 2008, *Live In Warsaw* 1998, *Project Ivan Lins* 1997
- MARC WAGNON *Earth is a Cruel Master* 2010, *Shadow Lines* 1999
- HECTOR NIEVES - *Life In The Big City* 2010
- DEBORA *Debora* 2010

- CHRIS WASHBURN AND THE SYOTOS BAND – *Field of Moons* 2010, *Paradise In Trouble* 2003, *Land of Nod* 2006
- GABRIELA ANDERS – *Bossa Beleza* 2009
- OMEGA BUGEMBE OKELLO *Kiwomera Emmeeme* 2008
- PAUL MEYERS *World on a String* 2007
- BOBBY SANABRIA –
- SUSAN PERIERA *Tudo Azul* 2007
- FRANK COLON *Latin Wonder* 2007
- EILEEN IVERS - *An Nollaig –An Irish Christmas* 2007, *Immigrant Soul* 2003
- MARY FOSTER CONKLIN *Blues for Breakfast* 2006
- MINO CINELU - *Quest Journey* 2005
- MARY GATCHELL – *Indigo Rose* 2005
- MACHAN *Machan* 2004
- PAM FLEMING - *Fearless Dreamer* 2003
- JOSEPH DIAMOND - *Not Your Typical New Yorker* 2000, *Island Garden* 2002
- JOHN MARGOLIS - *Christine's Refrigerator* 2002
- DON BYRON - *You Are #6 –Music for Six Musicians* 2001
- KEN HIRAI – *Unbalanced* 2001
- GERRY MULLIGAN *Art of Gerry Mulligan-The Final Recordings* 2000, *Paraiso* 1993
- LUIS BONILLA – *Escucha* 2000
- PETER ELDRIDGE –*Fool No More* 2000
- EVANS AND COPPOLA *Hold Back the Rain* 2000
- NEW YORK VOICES - *Sing The Songs Of Paul Simon* 1998, *What's Inside* 1993, *Hearts Of Fire* 1991
- JANET GRICE *Muse* 1990
- RAF ASTOR *Sin Mas Excusas* 1900
- TANIA MARIA - *Forbidden Colors* 1988
- HENDRIK MEURKENS -*A View From Manhattan* 1993
- STEVE SAKS – *Trilogia* 1990, *Wheels Within Wheels* 1993
- SHOKO AIDA – *Joia* 1996
- GRANT KING - *Let Love Out* 1997
- VARIOUS ARTISTS - *A New Home* (MCG Jazz)
- VARIOUS ARTISTS -*Heirs To Jobim* 1997
- MARIO ADNET – *Pentapaiva*
- DAN CAZIO + THE NY BLUE BOOK - *In Spite Of It All*
- SUGARO - *The Bone* 1998
- ASTRUD GILBERTO – *Temperance* 1997
- DRUMMER'S COLLECTIVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CD AND DVD
- GRANT KING *LET LOVE OUT* 1995

Endorsement

La Bella Strings

Media Coverage

Books

- Carey, John, 2008 *The Working Bassist* Planet Bass, 1st Ed., Planet Bass. Leo Traversa pp. 128-131

Articles and Interviews

- Visceglia, Michael, 2006. Globe-trottin' Bass Prof Talks About African Grooves and Going to School, *Bass Guitar Magazine* Jan. 2006 p 24
- Stagnaro, Oscar, 2009. Conceptos De Bajo -Maestros del Bajo Latino, *Musico Pro-The Magazine for the Musician* Jan 09 Issue pp 30-31
- Burns, Doug, 2009. Interview with Leo Traversa on Latin Bass, *Columbia University*
- Suesoff, Eric, 2008, Interview with Leo Traversa on Partido Alto Rhythm, *Duquesne University*
- Visceglia, Michael, 2009, Interview Leo Traversa, *Bass Player TV* [Online] Available at: http://truefire.com/tftv/index2.html?channel=ba-bass-brunch&videofile=bass-guitar/artists/bptv_l07_ltraversa

Reviews

- Delarue, 2009. **CD Review: Paul Meyers I've Got the World on a String** [Online] Available at: <https://lucidculture.wordpress.com/tag/leo-traversa/>
- Walseth, Brad, 2006. **Land of Nod review** [Online] Available at: <http://www.jazzchicago.net/chrisw.html>
- Gauthier, Bethany, 2011. **Violinist Ivers Brings Celtic Show to Miller** [Online] Available at: <http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2011/02/046.shtml>
- Amador, Raul, 2009. **Bass Immersion Day, Bass Musician Magazine** [Online] Available at: <http://bassmusicianmagazine.com/2009/10/bass-immersion-day/>
- Sostre, Wilbert, 2010. **Kenia Celebrates Dorival Caymii , Jazz and Bossa Review** [Online] Available at: <http://jnbreview.blogspot.com/2010/09/cd-review-kenia-celebrates-dorival.html>
- Graham, George, 2003. **Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul Review** [Online] Available at: <http://georgegraham.com/reviews/ivers.html>
- Astarita, Glenn 1999 **Marc Wagon: Shadowlines Review, All About Jazz** [Online] Available at: <http://buckyballmusic.com/store/br003.html>
- Murph, John, 2001. **Don Byron review #6, Jazz Times.** [Online] Available at: <http://jazztimes.com/articles/12881-you-are-6-don-byron>
- Hip Hop Elements, 2008. **Simply Kenia Review** [Online] Available at: http://officialkenia.com/reviews/Review_Simply_Kenia_Hip-Hop_Elements.03.08.pdf
- Assadourian, Haig, 2004. **Steve Kimock Band's Colorado Kickoff, Jam Base** [Online]

Available at: <http://www.jambase.com/Articles/5059/STEVE-KIMOCK-BAND'S-COLORADO-KICK-OFF>

- Alford, Dan 2005. **SKB Band at BB Kings NYC Review** [Online] Available at: <http://www.jambands.com/reviews/shows/2005/06/30/steve-kimock-band-b-b-king-s-nyc-6-11>
- Weiden, 1997. In Concert: **Traversa, Valentin und die Eisenhauers**, *Kultur in der Region* 2/25/97 p7
- Stewart, Zan, 1987. **Brazilian Maria at the Wiltern Theater** [Online] Available at: http://articles.latimes.com/1987-07-27/entertainment/ca-4109_1_tania-maria
- Bilawsky, Dan 2010. **Review Field of Moons** [Online] Available at: <http://jazzheads.tumblr.com/post/968926289/review-fields-of-moons-chris-washburne-and-the-syotos>

References

- **Dr. Chistopher J. Washburne**, *Associate Professor of Music, Director, Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program Chair, Ethnomusicology Area, Columbia University*
Contact: cjw5@columbia.edu
- **Dr. David Milnes**, *Professor of Music, Music Director University Symphony Orchestra, University of California at Berkeley* Contact: dmilnes@berkeley.edu
- **Don Byron**, *saxophonist, clarinetist, composer, arranger*, Contact: dbyron@attglobal.net
- **John Patitucci**, *Bassist, Educator*, Contact: jjpbass@gmail.com
- **Kim Plainfield**, *Drummer, Educator* contact: plainfield@i-2000.com