

Jerry DeVore

Within first of arriving in New York City, Jerry DeVore performed at the 55 Bar, then onto the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club at Lincoln Center, and the Iridium (to name a few). The pursuit of a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance at New York University was the initial event that brought him to NYC and he has been actively performing, recording, composing, arranging, producing and teaching in the city ever since.

Born in Peoria, Illinois, Jerry learned to play a dozen instruments by the end of his high school education. He started performing professionally on drum set and percussion, while still in high school. Soon his focus turned to the electric and upright basses, as his career migrated to playing the bass full-time.

Jerry involved himself in the local jazz scene as he transitioned into college. While attending Bradley University majoring in Music Performance, he was a full-time member of two orchestras in Illinois, in addition to short contracts with symphonies as far as North Carolina. Just before graduating with honors, Jerry won an audition with the United States Air Force Band. He toured the nation for over 4 years performing with the Jazz Big Band and Concert Band of the USAF Heartland of America Band. After his term with the band, he became a music transcriptionist and performed full-time with a gospel band. During this period, Jerry arranged and conducted a gospel choir with orchestra performing with Dove Award winning artist Richard Smallwood.

He was soon hired to be a full-time member of an R&B band called the Confidentials (named by Brides Magazine as one of the top wedding bands in the nation). While performing at the Art Farmer Jazz Festival, a local college noticed him and began talks for creating a new program. Jerry then became a full-time college instructor at Iowa Western, where he created a Music Technology degree and led that program.

As Jerry's newly designed program was growing and doubling the music department's enrollment, his interest was shifting toward completing a master's degree. He then moved to New York City and began a full-time graduate program at New York University, where he graduated with honors and was given the award for Outstanding Jazz Studies.

Through his career, Jerry has performed as a soloist with the Dallas Brass accompanied by full orchestra, and with several notable artists: Curtis Fuller, Wynton Marsalis, Kenny Werner, Randy Brecker, Gladys Knight, and Lenny Pickett (to name a few). Recently, a recording he performed on reached Billboard's Top Ten. As well as he joined the Buddy Rich Killing Force Reunion Big Band. He has studied with Chicago Symphony Orchestra Bassist Stephen Lester and Juilliard doctoral graduate Dr. Mark Morton (to name a few). He has also studied privately with several accomplished jazz musicians: bassist Mike Richmond, pianist Kenny Werner, pianist Jean-Michel Pilc, and drummer Billy Drummond.

Jerry is currently a Freelance Musician in New York City. He is active in the Broadway community, the jazz scene, and the recording industry. For more information including contact information and free music, visit www.JerryDeVore.com