



Jorge Sylvester ACE (Afro-Caribbean-Experimental) Collective

Jorge Sylvester – Alto Saxophone and Compositions
Nora McCarthy – Voice, Poetry and Compositions
Waldron Mahdi Ricks – Trumpet
Pablo Vergara – Piano
Donald Nicks – Electric Bass
Kenny Grohowski – Drums and Percussions

The ACE Collective is a group of improvising musicians created and led by saxophonist/composer/arranger Jorge Sylvester. An extension of the ACE Trio (alto saxophone, electric bass and drums), the ACE Collective includes three additional independent rhythmic and melodic elements: the voice, trumpet and piano expanding its harmonic colors, its scope of sound and its textural capacity. The music is original, new and experimental and draws from the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora, jazz and the free music art forms.

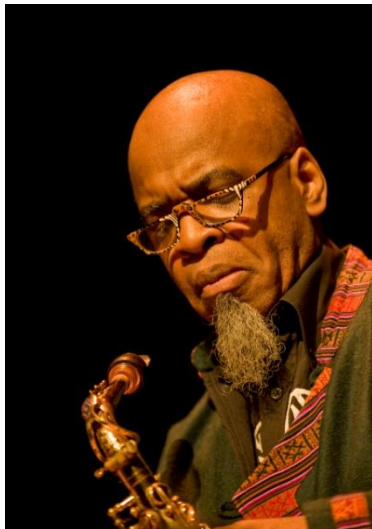
A native of Colon, Republic of Panama, Sylvester's original compositions are indicative of the vast cultural mixture that is Central America. The ACE Collective utilizes the rich spectrum of rhythms from the Caribbean and other Latin American countries as a vehicle to create new and undiscovered rhythmic melodic lines within the jazz tradition. Collective and free improvisation is an essential part of the concept utilizing juxtaposition and retrograde as main components of experimentation.

THE MUSIC:

Afro-Caribbean rhythms and their relationship to the avant-garde music form have not been documented. Unlike the work of composers such as Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and others who used Afro-Caribbean rhythms in their works without experimenting with their rhythmic pulse, the compositional structure of the music of the ACE Collective goes beyond an absolute interpretation, and delves deeper into the core of the rhythms breaking them down and expanding the pulse into a myriad of complex configurations that tap into the original primal properties of the music itself, reflecting its history and its origin, unraveling its many

transmutations and adaptations over time and discovering new possibilities and applications within the tradition itself that are related to the avant-garde.

The poetry reflects the message of the compositions by telling the story of each piece and its historic relevance to the music adding an important educational dimension. Other compositions that are significant to the history of jazz music are also occasionally introduced into the performance highlighting certain lesser known but meaningful composers from the Caribbean.



JORGE SYLVESTER

Alto-Saxophonist, Conductor, Composer, Arranger, Producer
<https://www.jorgesylvesteracemusic.com>

Born in Colon, Panama attended the Panama Conservatory of Music and the University of Panama. He received a Bachelor of Science in Music from the State University of New York College at New Paltz in 1981. A unique innovator in the idiom of creative music, Sylvester's sound is reminiscent of another time in jazz history when artists like Dolphy and Ornette were exploding on the scene and experimenting with concepts that would ultimately revolutionize music at large. A throwback to the future, Mr. Sylvester has been on the cutting edge of that scene since 1980 when he first came to New York City. His blend of African-Caribbean rhythms with new music is what gives Sylvester his distinguished voice. An impressive composer and arranger, his music moves, entices and stirs the imagination, as visceral as it is visual, his ability to transform colors into sounds and sounds into textures place him in the company of the great expressionist painters.

Beginning his professional career at age 14, Jorge was leading his own Caribbean dance band, writing his own arrangements and compositions. He studied privately with renowned Panamanian jazz saxophonist, Euclides Hall, who took him along on gigs to observe from the bandstand in the "old school style". When Jorge's professor at the conservatory, Efrain Castro, sent him to sub for him in a band led by the great Panamanian pianist Victor Boa, Jorge was taken on as a regular.

Heading for Europe in his early twenties, Sylvester spent ten years touring and recording with his ensembles and freelancing throughout Europe. He studied advanced harmony with Argentinean pianist, composer Luis Vecchio in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, Spain. It was during this period that Mr. Sylvester began to explore free jazz by playing and recording with the Luis Vecchio Quartet.

Upon his arrival to New York in 1980, he studied with Dave Holland, Oliver Lake, Steve Lacy, Ramsey Ameen, Marion Brown and was a part of vibraphonist Karl Berger's Creative Music Studio in Woodstock.

Sylvester has performed alongside many greats in the world of jazz including: Stefon Harris, Rodney Kendrick, Karl Berger, David Murray, Hammiet Bluiett. Oliver Lake, Butch Morris, Danilo Perez, Craig Harris, Howard Johnson, Bob Stewart, Poet Sekou Sundiata, the Black Rock Coalition Orchestra, Kuumba Frank Lacy, Joe Bowie and his long-time musical partner and collaborator, vocal artist Nora McCarthy.

McCarthy is a member of Jorge Sylvester ACE (Afro-Caribbean Experimental) Collective and his Trio Imagination as well as the Imaging Dolphy Project. Sylvester and McCarthy also co-lead several groups, namely: The ConceptualMotion Orchestra and A Small Dream In Red (voice and saxophone duet)—a CD by the same name was released on the Sundown label in March, 2003 and in 2013 they released *In The Language of Dreams* on their label RedZen Records. The ConceptualMotion Orchestra, conducted and orchestrated by Sylvester, is a 20-piece all original music orchestra with compositions contributed by both he and McCarthy, opened the renowned avant garde VISION FESTIVAL X in New York City, June, 2005.

In the Spring of 2006, Jorge Sylvester toured Europe and Israel with the World Saxophone Quartet filling the chair formerly occupied by its founding father Julius Hemphill, and Arthur Blythe, James Spaulding, Eric Person, John Purcell and Bruce Williams.

In January, 2007, Mr. Sylvester returned to his native Panama as a member of the Panamanian All-Stars led and directed by pianist Danilo Perez at the fourth annual Panama Jazz Festival performing with Carlos Garnett, Santi Debriano, his cousin Billy Cobham and Renato Thoms.

In the Spring of 2007 he performed a series of workshops and a concert in Podgorica, Montenegro with A Small Dream in Red for Jazz Appreciation Month and appeared on the television show, Good Morning Montenegro.

In December 2010, Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective performed in concert for an enthusiastic capacity filled audience the illustrious, Brucknerhaus in Linz, Austria and recorded the music for their new release *Spirit Driven* several days afterward in Hagenberg.

Mr. Sylvester remains very active on the New York jazz scene performing frequently with his many projects and as a significant member of the Blue Unity Ensemble and Sextet as well as McCarthy's People of Peace Quintet that released a CD, *blesSINGS* in 2016, that includes several of Sylvester's compositions. He conducts workshops throughout New York and elsewhere in the United States teaching his unique approach to composition using Afro-Caribbean rhythms and is releasing a new solo CD in 2019.

RECENT RELEASES 2013-2016

- *blesSINGS*, (RedZen Records, 2016) Nora McCarthy People of Peace Quintet: Nora McCarthy – voice, poetry, compositions, arrangements; Jorge Sylvester, alto saxophone, compositions, arrangements; Pablo Vergara, piano; Donald Nicks, bass; Kenny Grohowski, drums. *blesSINGS* is a modern post bop record that combines several

elements to make its powerfully beautiful statement: original compositions and lyrics; various applications of vocal and musical language, inventive improvisation and imaginative arrangements. The music addresses the overwhelming need for compassion, environmental awareness and understanding in our world today.

- ***Spirit Driven, (Leader)*** double CD (RedZen Records,™ 2013) with Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective: Nora McCarthy – voice, poetry; Waldron Ricks—trpt; Pablo Vergara—pno; Donald Nicks—elec. bs; Kenny Grohowski—drums, percussion. ***Spirit Driven*** is a highly rhythmic and spiritually motivated compositional journey through the various cultures that make up the Caribbean Islands encompassing their significance and contribution to the present day advanced musical concepts in jazz and avant-garde/free music. The music is original, modern, imaginative and experimental. The use of language, “word,” in the form of poetry and lyrics is throughout and used to convey each song’s spiritual and historical message. The CD includes a composition dedicated to Haiti.
- ***In The Language Of Dreams (Co-Leader)*** (RedZen Records,™ 2013)- a tribute to Ornette Coleman and Wassily Kandinsky with A Small Dream In Red, minimalist innovative voice and saxophone duo, Nora McCarthy—voice, Bodhran; Jorge Sylvester—alto saxophone. (<http://www.asmalldreminred.com>.) A powerfully artistic CD comprised of original compositions, poetry and improvisation as well interpretations of five of Kandinsky's masterpieces graphically and spontaneously composed in the moment. There are also several covers of choice music which includes two Ornette Coleman compositions with lyrics written by McCarthy. The duo employs various techniques they discovered working in this format as well as other techniques employed by all art forms. Deconstruction, diminution, expansion, elaboration, symbolism, line and design among others. Intuitive and symbiotic, the two altos enter into each work with absolute freedom from preconception and create within and outside the form the textural content of each piece.

DISCOGRAPHY:

- May, 2011, ***Toward The Hill of Joy***, with trombonist, composer George Brandon's Blue Unity Ensemble featuring Nora McCarthy.
- New Double CD ***Following the Line*** just released on Sylvester’s label Lizoka Music: *Following the Line/ Live in New York City* is the documentation of his 1999 quartet featuring Monte Croft on vibraphone, Jeff Carney on bass, Terreon Gully on drums, and a special appearance by pianist James Hurt on the Bud Powell composition Willow Grove.
- 2008 release ***Waldron Ricks*** with trumpeter, composer Waldron Ricks, Danny Grissett, Jaleel Shaw, Nashiet Waits and Vicente Archer, featuring Jorge’s Quintet version of his composition “Playground.”
- As co-leader of the quartet Asymmetry with pianist, Lucian Ban, Sylvester recorded a CD for Jazzaway records ***Playground*** which was released in December, 2005 entitled “Playground” which is also the name of the title track a composition written by Sylvester.

- *In The Ear of the Beholder*, 2001 (Billboard's Spotlight, Feb. 2001) Jazz Magnet Records, features: Donald Nicks on electric bass and Bobby Sanabria on drums and is Sylvester's second release as a leader.
- Critically acclaimed *MusiCollage* (Postcards, 1996, re-released on Arkadia Records) featured Claudio Roditi - trumpet, Marvin Sewell – guitar, Monte Croft – vibraphone – Gene Jackson – drums, Santi Debriano – acoustic bass and Bobby Sanabria – percussion. It received a **** rating from Downbeat Magazine and won a Billboard Critics' Choice award).
- In 1999 Jorge Sylvester appeared on BET Jazz "Live from the Knitting Factory," with his group, The ACE Trio.

ADDITIONAL DISCOGRAPHY:

- *Magic Night* (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1989) with the Chastang/Sylvester Sextet.
- *Viriato Blue* (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1983.)
- *The Mass* (Palmetto Records, 2000) with the Collective Identity Saxophone Quartet featuring Sam Newsome, Aaron Stewart and Alex Harding.
- *Another Side* (CIMP Records, 2000) with tenor saxophone Ken Simon Quartet featuring drummer Barry Altschul.
- *The Blue Oneness of Dreams* (Mouth Almighty Records, 1997) with Sekou Sundiata.
- *The Essence All Stars* featuring Doug Carn, Idris Muhammed and Josh Roseman (Hip Hop Records, 1997.)



Nora McCarthy

Jazz Vocal Artist, Composer, Poet, Lyricist, Educator

<http://www.noramccarthy.com>

Winner of the 38th Annual Jazz Station Awards in two categories: Jazz Singer and Best Jazz Vocal CD *blesSINGS* by Arnaldo DeSouteiro—Los Angeles-based Jazz Historian, Educator and Record Producer. Founder & Ceo Of Jazz Station Records (JSR)

Nora McCarthy has thus far had a very productive and significant musical career. A unique and original singer, poet, songwriter and innovative improviser, she is an important force in the advanced New York jazz scene since 1996 when she recorded her first of thus far eight CD's, *red&blue* with John diMartino, Essiet Okon Essiet, Alvester Garnett, Mike Lee and Sato Takeishi.

McCarthy's musical roots run deep. Her burnished alto voice is rich with a distinctive style that cuts a broad swath from soul, rhythm & blues, jazz, bebop, post-bop, modal jazz and the free, avant-garde idioms but her sound is reminiscent of the great voices and horns in jazz.

Nora currently leads the following creative ensembles: The People of Peace Quintet with Jorge Sylvester-alto sax, Pablo Vergara-pno, Donald Nicks-e.bass, Kenny Grohowski-drms; The Nora McCarthy Organic Trio with guitarist Marvin Sewell and bassist Donald Nicks; Nora McCarthy Qu'ART'et a modern jazz group rooted in tradition that melds original music with reimagined standards – Ray Gallon-piano, Jeff Carney-bass and Jay Sawyer-drums; A Small Dream In Red Innovative Voice and Saxophone Duo with Jorge

ARTIST: NORA MCCARTHY

ALBUM: blesSINGS

RELEASE DATE: FEB. 1, 2016

LABEL: REDZEN RECORDS

GENRE: POST BOP JAZZ

PRODUCED BY:

NORA MCCARTHY

TRACK LISTING:

LOVE POEM FOR THE PEOPLE

AKARA MOI MOI

NIMBUS

INTO THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING

RESTLESS MIND

THE BLESSING

PASSION DANCE

**LISTEN CLOSE TO WHAT THE
TREES ARE SAYING**

NIGHT ON EARTH

NOWHERE EVERAFTER

Sylvester, Manna For Thought Improvising Trio with Dom Minasi-guitar and Ras Moshe-tenor saxophone and The Modern Voice Ensemble – an experimental vocal group that implements McCarthy's concepts for composition and improvisation. McCarthy is co-founder along with alto saxophonist Jorge Sylvester of: ConceptualMotion Orchestra – a 20-piece large ensemble led by Sylvester comprised of some of New York's most outstanding improvisers and features McCarthy's compositions, poetry and vocal prowess.

Nora is also currently a member of Jorge Sylvester ACE (Afro-Caribbean-Experimental) Collective and the Extended Edition with Strings (Double CD *Spirit Driven* recorded in Austria and released in 2013); The Blue Unity Ensemble led by transdisciplinary artist, integrative sound music practitioner poet, composer, anthropologist Dr. George Brandon – a CD *Towards the Hill of Joy*, was released in 2013; and, pianist, composer and conceptualist David Haney and renowned drummer Bernard Purdie’s Sextet, “Jazz Stories.”

Nora has shared the stage with many notable musicians and most recently include Jazz Legends: Bassist Reggie Workman (*John Coltrane*), Vibraphonist Warren Smith, renowned Tubist Jose Davilla (*Henry Threadgill*) and legendary drummer Bernard “Pretty” Purdie (*James Brown, Aretha Franklin, King Curtis, Nina Simone, Albert Ayler-far too many to list.*)

Nora is a former member of the late Conductor, Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris’ A Chorus of Poets (2005-2010); Kuumba Frank Lacy’s Vibe Tribe; recorded with multi-instrumentalist Gunter Hampel’s European Trio; and, performed with the Next Legacy Jazz Orchestra spearheaded by Trombonist Craig Harris and Tenor Saxophonist Benny Russel and is also a former member of the vocal a cappella group “Different Voices” founded by international jazz/new music vocalist and educator Jay Clayton.



“What has impressed me about Nora McCarthy is that she is much more than a jazz vocalist—she is a singer, she plays piano, she composes music and writes lyrics—comprehensive artistry in the grand tradition of someone like Carmen McRae or Betty Carter.” *Eric Nemeyer, Publisher of Jazz Inside Magazine, 2016*

Nora graced the highly coveted cover of the 2016 February/March issue of Jazz Inside Magazine as the featured artist

NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCES:

MORAL SUPPORT by Bill Considine @JumpStart Staged Reading Series at Medicine Show Theatre, NYC, April 30-May 1, 2018, DIRECTOR, Félix E. Gardón ;
JAZZ STORIES w/ David Haney and Bernard Purdie, Steve Swell, Yael Archer Modiano, Adam Lane, at The Public Theater/Joe’s Pub February 2017;

LISTEN TO ME -- AN OPERA – (Music by: Rainy Orteca - Text by Gertrude Stein),12/3,4/2016, Medicine Show Theatre, 549 W 52nd St., New York, NY 10019;

A sold out performance with the Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective Spring 2016 in Northampton, Mass. for Jazz Shares, at the Parlor Room;

A sold out concert at the illustrious Brucknerhaus in Linz, Austria debuting her original poetry as well as new compositions with Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective;

Workshop and Demonstration – A Small Dream In Red – Innovative voice and saxophone duo, Panama Jazz Festival – Panama City, Panama, January 2007

Performance and week-long master class at the American Center, Podgorica, Montenegro with A Small Dream In Red, for Jazz Month as well as an appearance on Good Morning Montenegro;

McCarthy performed twice at the annual ISIM (International Society for Improvising Musicians), in 2013 with Jane Ira Bloom and her global ensemble at Roulette, Brooklyn, NY

ISIM Festival, 2014 with her innovative voice and saxophone duo, A Small Dream in Red at New School University, NYC 2015;

Vision Festival, NYC, 2005 & 2010 with the ConceptualMotion Orchestra and Butch Morris' Chorus of Poets respectively;

The Will Connell Memorial Residency at The Stone and St. Peter's Church, NYC with the ACE Collective, in December, 2014 and January 2015 respectively.

Nora also presents a jazz radio show for Cadence Jazz World (<http://www.cadencejazzworld.com>) called, "Nora's Jazz Show" featuring the music of creative jazz and avant-jazz, world jazz and both new and old works, established and emerging artists, musicians from around the world.

Nora (MIC~ART Productions) produces Take It OUT!! Tuesday, a creative music series presenting the finest established and emerging artists, instrumentalists, vocal artists, visual and movement artists, and poets at the legendary Medicine Show Theatre on 52nd Street in NYC.

Through her vast experience in the jazz and creative music field, Nora has developed a comprehensive 13-pronged approach to teaching voice, improvisation and career development. She is founder of The Zen Of Singing...The Spiritual Path To Finding Your Voice™ and currently teaches privately, conducts workshops, and master classes.

- McCarthy has penned lyrics to dozens of jazz standards and countless other compositions by other artists including her own original music.
- McCarthy's has been writing prose, poetry and word art for several decades which are intermingled with her other singing and vocal improvisations at her performances and in conjunction with her original compositions and those of the other projects and artists she is involved with. Her living poem, "Today In America," is one such work that began in 2001 and is a time lapsed look at ongoing events written in a protest poetic style with a broad and far reaching scope: government, politics, societal, racial, and cultural issues,

civil and human rights, and environmental issues, and is imbued with prophetic and philosophical overtones, righteous indignation, anger, and outrage. Written for the composition of the same title composed by alto-saxophonist, Jorge Sylvester.

- McCarthy' has written over 30 compositions some are tributes to: Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Grover Washington, and “Faith In Time – Jimmy’s Song” which is dedicated to her musical inspiration, the great balladeer, Jimmy Scott. Others are graphic compositions, soundscapes and poetic architectures that she has been designing since 2001 for her advanced music groups.

DISCOGRAPHY:

Manna For Thought (RedZen Records™)-2018
blesSINGS (RedZen Records™)-2016
A Time For Love (RedZen Records™)-2013
Spirit Driven (RedZen Records™)-2013
In The Language Of Dreams (RedZen Records™)-2013
Toward A Hill of Joy (Blue Unity Music) - 2011
Circle Completing (RedZen Records™)-2009
A Small Dream In Red (Sundown Jazz) (RedZen Records™)-2005
red&blue (RedZen Records™)-1998



Waldron Mahdi Ricks
Composer and Trumpet Player
<http://www.waldronmahdiricks.com/>

Waldron Mahdi Ricks has played alongside many legendary jazz greats such as: Art Blakey, Roy Haynes, Wynton Marsalis, Bobby Watson, Barry Harris, Arthur Taylor, Eddie Henderson, and Roy Hargrove and performed with David Murray, Greg Tardy, Myron Walden, the Charlie Persip Big Band, and the Mingus Big Band. As a composer, his credits appeared on the 2003, PBS 6-part series, “This Far by Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys”, and in the Emmy Award winning 1996, “Secret Daughter”. Ricks is a 2000 graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, 19xx, Waldron started playing the trumpet at the age of nine. His father, who plays sax, gave him his first music lesson. He studied music in Detroit for six years, taking lessons from Marcus Belgrave, among others. Waldron moved to New York City in 1984 to study with jazz masters Barry Harris, Tommy Turrentine, and Wallace Roney. He played with: the Bert McGowan Jazz Quintet, the Percy France Jazz Combo, and the Willie Williams Quintet. Waldron’s group performed at Indigo Blues, Showman's Lounge, the Village Gate, and the Time Café in New York. His group included tenor saxophonist Willie Williams, drummer Victor Jones.

Waldron toured in Europe with tenor player James Carter and performed at the Verona Jazz Festival in 1992, and again in 1996 at Scullers Jazz Club in Boston. The Waldron Ricks Quartet performed at the Toulon Jazz Festival in France in 1994. As a sideman, Ricks performed as part of the John Coltrane Memorial Concert in Boston, Mass., from 1994 - 1999, featured alongside jazz greats Cecil McBee, Teri Lynn Carrington, Shirley Scott, Bill Pierce and Frank Foster.



Pablo Vergara

Pianist, Producer, Composer

Pablo Vergara has already made a mark in the New York scene by working with a wide array of artists in the most diverse musical contexts. Classically trained in his native Chile, Pablo moved to the US to study at Harlem's City College with distinguished professor Ron Carter. Since then he has played and recorded with artists like tenor saxophone legend Gato Barbieri, Grammy Award winner Dave Valentin, Antonio Hart, Jay Rodriguez, Victor Jones, Greg Tardy,

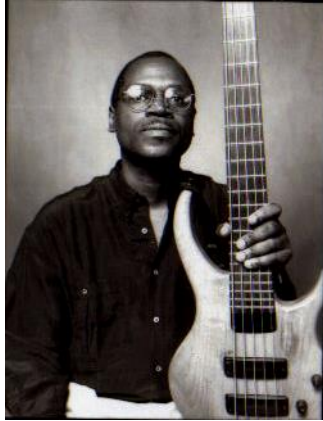
Alfredo de la Fe, Valery Ponomarev, Andy Gonzalez, Santi Debriano and the Chico O'Farill Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra.

Pablo Vergara played keyboards with Brazilian/Electronic music star Bebel Gilberto. He also produced and co-wrote the album "On the Moon", with Cuban violin legend Alfredo De La Fe, featuring Dave Valentin in flute along with some of the finest Cuban musicians in New York.

Pablo performed across the US with Turkish Sufi Music virtuoso Omar Faruk Tekbilek. He was the musical director of Anath's Middle Eastern Music Ensemble, which performed at the Super Bowl XXVII in San Diego, California. He also produced Anath's "Rapture" EP, a groundbreaking crossover of North African rhythms, Middle Eastern vibes and French Electronica.

Vergara's music interests are wide and diverse. He recently completed a European tour with R&B and Funk legends Brass Construction and B.T. Express. He has also been a guest artist with the Grammy Nominated band The Groove Collective.

Pablo Vergara has traveled the world, playing jazz and world music festivals across Europe, the US, Australia and the Caribbean. His performance credits include Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Bumbershoot Music Festival in Seattle, New York Central Park Summerstage, Paris' Le Zenith, Marseille's Fiesta des Suds, Spain's Festival de Santander and Australia's Sidney Festival, among many others.



Donald Nicks

Electric Bass

Education: Queens College, CUNY New York, NY, Jazzmobile Workshop, East Harlem Music School

Bass Study: Buster Williams (acoustic), and Lyle Atkinson (electric).

Tours:

- Toru Oki Blues Band Far East Tours - (Japan)
- Luther Thomas & Dizzazz - (Europe)
- Charles Earland - (U.S.A.)
- Charanga Sensual - (Nicaragua World Music Festival)
- Ray Mantilla - (Europe)
- Henry Threadgill - Very Very Circus Tour (Europe)
- Nancy Wilson, Jonathan Butler.
- Children of Africa - (Lagos, Nigeria)
- Roy Ayers - Double Trouble Tour (Europe), Havana Jazz Festival (Cuba), Jazz Explosion Mid-West Tour , Roy Ayers - (Australia), Los Pleneros de la 21 - (U.S.A.), Roy Ayers - (Japan),
- Roy Ayers - Ongoing to present

Recordings:

- Toru Oki: "Manhattan Midnight", "Broadway Shuffle", "Toru Oki & Albert King"
- Pepe Castillo: "Bananaland"
- Bobby Sanabria: "New York City ACHE"
- Roy Ayers: "Naste", "Hot", "Good Vibrations"
- Zachary Breaux: "Groovin", "Time & Space", "Crazy Love Songs"
- Jorge Sylvester ACE Trio: "In The Ear of the Beholder"



Kenny Grohowski

Drummer, Percussionist

Brought up in a musical household in Miami, 28-year-old drummer, **Kenny Grohowski** has been performing since the age of 14. His rich musical background is demonstrated through the growing list of his collaborators and guest artists, including Vernon Reid, Corey Unger (of Blood Has Been Shed), Jason Lidner, Emeline Michel, Peter Cincotti, Bobby Sanabria, Bill T. Jones, Rory Stuart, Cassandra Wilson, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Giovanni Hidalgo, John Benitez, Domingo

Quinones, and Bobby Valentin.

Grohowski has been a member of bassist Lonnie Plaxico's band since 2003, and a member of Andy Milne's Dapp Theory since 2006, having come back from a successful US/Canada tour with Dapp Theory, with Highlight shows in Vancouver opening for Jazz and Bass legend, Stanley Clarke, and performed in the 2007 Latin Grammy Awards Live from Madison Square Garden with the award winning group RBD. He has appeared on several recordings, including Plaxico's hit "So Alive" [Sony, Japan]. As of 2009, Grohowski has become a new member of acclaimed Haitian singer/cultural figure Emeline Michel's Accoustic Quintet, and has also performed at the Museum of Modern Art with the Ze Luis Quartet as part of their Live Art performances. Grohowski has also toured across the United States, as well as in Australia with an upcoming tour of China with New Classical Composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (a.k.a. DBR).

When not working with his various affiliated ensembles, Grohowski enjoys a steady and fast paced Free lancing schedule, working with many of New York City's top Jazz, Rock, and Brazilian artists, as well as a multitude of others, and has recorded on over 40 albums.

Grohowski has also given back to the community of NYC with years of experience as a private drum set instructor, as well as guitar and bass instruction, is an affiliated private instructor for New School University's Jazz and Contemporary Drum set divisions, and was the head of the music department for Generation X-Cel's X-Press After School Program from 2004-2006.

Grohowski is also a composer and member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's Young Composers Symposium Development Program, who premiered his string quartet in 2005. The New York Times praised the piece as "insightfully combined dark Shostakovich-like harmonies with an edgy rhythmic drive."

Grohowski received his B.F.A. from The New School Jazz and Contemporary Music program in 2005. He also has finished his first solo record titled "Second Last Minute", available for download on iTunes and Amazon.com. The album blends a multitude of influences ranging from Weather Report, Allan Holdsworth, Meshuggah, Miles Davis, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, and Brand X. His brand new project and 2nd solo release, will feature him not only as Producer, but also showcase his Guitar work and programming skills as well as his drumming, is currently in the development stage, and seeks to be a more "Aggressive yet Mature" release. Grohowski is currently endorsed by Factory Metal Percussion and represented by Larry Mazer (via New York City's Melodic/Progressive, Violin-driven Metaller's, Hung).

JAZZ: Afro Caribbean Night**Jazz aus der Karibik
jenseits jeglicher
Harry-Belafonte-Klons**

VON CHRISTOPH HAUNSCHMID

**Afro Caribbean Night: Jorge Sylvester
– The ACE Collective: Brucknerhaus Linz,
6. Dezember**

★★★★★

Wenn das erste Konzert der Brucknerhaus-Jazzreihe in der Saison 2010/2011 Afro Caribbean Night genannt wird, drohen Klischee und Folkloristik. Wenn aber Paul Zauner fürs Programm verantwortlich zeichnet, bürgt das in der Regel für Qualität. So war's auch am Montag.

Als Supporting Act begeisterten zwei junge, noch weitgehend unbekanntere Musiker. Der Inder Soumik Datta an der Sarod, einer der Sitar klanglich verwandten Laute, und der aus Wels stammende Perkussionist Bernhard Schimpfberger wurden vom Publikum für ihren fruchtbringenden Ost-West-Dialog gebührend bejubelt.

Beim Hauptkonzert verließen einige den Saal. Wer von Jorge Sylvesters ACE Collective Calypso singende Harry-Belafonte-Klons erwartete, wurde enttäuscht. Die Stücke des aus Panama stammenden Altsaxophonisten verwenden die rhythmische Tradition als Basis für ausgedehnte Exkurse in die Welt des Zeitgenössischen. Bewundernswert lässt sich jonglieren der junge Drummer Kenneth Grohowsky mit den ungeraden Metren. Die Kompositionen Sylvesters sind ein sicherer Boden für aufregende solistische Ausflüge vor allem für die Sängerin und Poetin Nora McCarthy und den Trompeter Waldron Mahdi Ricks. Am ehesten können die Sounds mit Steve Colemans Five Elements verglichen werden, der im Oktober in St. Magdalena eindruckliche Spuren hinterließ. Das ACE Collective wird in den nächsten Tagen bei Peter Guschlbauer in Hagenberg seine neue CD aufnehmen. Darauf kann man sich freuen.



ACE Collective begeisterte in Linz. (grox)

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

OONachrichten Kultur
Medien
Jorge Sylvester - The ACE
Collective
Brucknerhaus Linz,
December 6, 2010 *****

Those who were expecting Calypso-singing Harry Belafonte clones must have been disappointed. The pieces composed by the Panamanian saxophonist use the rhythmic tradition as a basis for extended forays into the world of the contemporary. The young drummer Kenneth Grohowsky juggled the odd meters with exquisite ease. Sylvester's compositions are solid ground for exciting, improvisational excursions particularly by the singer and poet Nora McCarthy and the trumpeter Waldron Mahdi Ricks. The music could most readily be compared to Steve Coleman's Five Elements who made a big impression in St. Magdalena in October. In the next days the ACE Collective will record their new CD in Hagenberg. You have to look forward to that.
-Christoph Haunschmid

"Ace Collective enthusiastically received in Linz"

A 6 out of 6 *** Stellar
Review**

**December 6, 2010 performance
of the Jorge Sylvester ACE
Collective at the illustrious
Brucknerhaus in Linz Austria.
Lineup: Jorge Sylvester – alto
saxophone, conductor,
composer, arranger; Nora
McCarthy – voice, composer,
poet; Waldron Mahdi Ricks –
trumpet; Pablo Vergara – piano;
Donald Nicks – electric bass;
Kenneth Grohowski – drums.**