

## **Michael Bisio**

### **Contact**

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### **Summary of Qualifications**

Bassist, composer, project leader, educator, collaborator and producer working in creative music for more than twenty five years.

"In the end, while influences are heard, the sound and approach are clearly Bisio's own."  
John Ephland, Down Beat

### **As a Leader**

- Michael Bisio Quintet: Covert Choreography (Cadence), Undulations (Omnitone)
- Michael Bisio Quartet: In Seattle (Silkheart), Connections (CIMP), CIMP 360: Circle This, AM (CIMP)
- The Carter Jefferson Memorial Ensemble: an eighteen piece band including 2 bassists, 2 drummers, vocalist and poet.
- Michael Bisio Sextet: Ours (CT Records)
- Thundering Brass: an ensemble featuring 2 trumpets, 2 basses and drums
- Michael Bisio Trio: Composance ( Cadence)
- Various duo and solo efforts: MBEK (Meniscus), Zebulon (CIMP), Primal Intentions (Cadence)
- Collar City Createology

"Bisio is an adept performer at all levels, from his blistering solo barrages to his more intricate larger ensemble work." Andrew Bartlett, Encyclopedia of Northwest Music

### **As a Bassist**

- Matthew Shipp Trio
- Karl Berger, various ensembles including CMS Orchestra
- Jason Koa Hwang's Spontaneous River
- Stephen Gauci's Basso Continuo
- Tomas Ulrich's Cargo Cult
- Matthew Shipp String Ensemble, Sacred Geometry
- Joe McPhee/Michael Bisio Duo: Finger Wigglers (CIMP), Zebulon (CIMP)
- Charles Gayle Trio
- Vinny Golia Quintet: Dante No Longer Repents (Music and Arts)
- Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra
- Duo with violinist, Eyvind Kang: MBEK (Meniscus)
- The Blulette: a quartet with Joe McPhee, Joe Giardullo, Dominic Duval and Michael: In the Spirit (CIMP), No Greater Love (CIMP), Let Paul Robeson Sing! (CIMP)

- International Creative Music Orchestra
- Bob Nell Trio and Duo: Baby Steps (nell), Soft and Bronze (Plechmo)
- Seattle Symphony
- Rob Blakeslee Quintet, Quartet and Trio: Long Narrows (Nine Winds)
- James Emery/ Michael Bisio duo
- New York Composer's Orchestra West
- Urban Assault Vehicle with Roy Campbell, Jay Rosen, Joe Giardullo, Dominic Duval and Joe McPhee
- Running Man, a chamber jazz opera composed by Diedre Murray
- Northwest Chamber Orchestra
- Bill Smith Trio and Duo
- Various pit orchestras including The King and I with Yule Brenner and Women of the Year with Lauren Bacall
- Barbara Donald/Sonny Simmons Quintet: Barbara Donald & Unity, The Past and Tomorrows (Cadence)
- John Tchai/Marilyn Crispell Quartet
- Jim Nolet Trio/Duo
- Bern Nix/Jim Nolet Octet
- Northwest Symphonietta
- Billy Mintz Quartet featuring Tony Malaby and Billy's 2 bass band
- The Essence of Jack: a Jazz Play with Vincent Balestri
- Joe McPhee and the World Bass Quartet
- Stuart Dempster/ Michael Bisio Duo
- McPhee/Boni/Bisio/Duval, Port of Saints (CJR)
- Harding/Boni/McPhee/Bisio, Remembrance (CJR)
- Joe Giardullo Quartet, Shadow and Light (Drimala), Now Is (Drimala)
- Loren Stillman Trio
- Oluyemi and Ijeoma Thomas
- Saadet Turkoz
- Avram Fefer/ Mike Bisio Duo, Painting Breath, Stoking Fire (CIMP)

"His playing appears to be produced by sorcery." Frank Rubolino, Cadence Magazine

## As a Composer

With over one hundred works of various forms and lengths, Michael has composed music for all the ensembles under his leadership and many of his associates. These pieces have been performed in clubs, concert venues, and festivals. They have been broadcast over assorted media. Most have been recorded, some were composed for films and theater, one found its way to animation. A complete list of Michael's compositions is available upon request.

In his book, *Jackson Street After Hours*, Paul de Barros singled out Bisio as one of the preeminent heirs to Seattle's earthy, yet innovative tradition and further marked his compositional style as ... "a spare, bluesy sound, the sweet- and-sour timbres favored by Charles Mingus."

Composed music for Karl Krogstad's feature film, *Strings*

*Beat Angel* a film by Randy Allred, starring Vincent Balestri, features Michael's compositions and improvisations.

Animation artist, Bernard Roddy, in his film *Time & Object* uses *Something Different*, from *Zebulon (CIMP)*, Michael Bisio/Joe McPhee, as the score.

Music for *American Voices: Bukowski, Micheline and the First Amendment*. A play written and performed by Vincent Balestri

Michael has always been involved with the art of spontaneous composition.

"Both his solidly grounded basslines and his remarkable sense of musical architecture impress here."  
Bill Milkowski, *JazzTimes*

## Some Performance Highlights

- October 2012 Matthew Shipp Trio, Jimmy Mak's, Portland, OR
- June 2011 Blood Trio (Whit Dickey, Sabir Mateen, Michael Bisio) Vision Festival 16
- February 2011 Matthew Shipp Trio European Tour
- November 2010 *SPACE IN THE HEART* opera by Bill Smith, Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Symphony Space, NYC
- July 2010 Matthew Shipp Trio, SKM, Connie Crothers/Michael Bisio, Thunk, Karl Berger Ingrid Sertso 4tet, throughout the month at The Stone, NYC
- March 2010 Solo Concert, Bennington College, VT
- September 2009 *Ai Confini tra Sardegna e Jazz*, Matthew Shipp Trio
- June 2009 Vision Festival, Jason Kao Hwang's Spontaneous River
- June 2009 Jazzfest Villach (Austria) '09 Michael Bisio Quartet
- December 2008: Vespers w/ Rashied Ali and Louie Belogenis at Middle Collegiate Church, NYC
- November 2008 : Stephen Gauci's Basso Continuo at Roulette
- May 2008: Sunny Murray Trio, NYC
- April 2008: Alain Kirili's NYC Studio w/ Joe McPhee, Dominic Duval and Rosie Hertliner

- July 2007: Michael Bisio solo and quartet at Sangha, Washington DC, Transparent Productions
- June 2007: Michael Bisio Quartet, Vision Festival XII
- March 2007: Michael Bisio/William Parker Duo, The Stone, NYC
- November 2006: Matthew Shipp String Ensemble, Sacred Geometry, The Kitchen NYC
- January 2006: Michael Bisio Quartet, The Stone NYC
- October 2005: Michael Bisio/Michael Vlatkovich /Greg Campbell, Earshot Jazz Festival
- March 2004: Seattle Improvised Music Festival w/ Wally Shoup and Paul Hession
- Jan. 2004: West Coast concerts w/ Charles Gayle Trio
- March 2003: Merkin Hall, NYC, Joe Giardullo Quartet, Shadow and Light
- Oct.- Nov. 2002: Earshot Jazz Festival with the Loren Stillman Trio, Oluyemi and Ijeoma Thomas, Saadet Turkoz
- Oct. 2002: solo concert at The Uptown, Kingston, NY
- July 2002: solo concert at Polestar Music Gallery, Seattle, WA
- May 2002: Vision Festival, (NYC) with the Joe Giardullo Quartet
- Sept. 2001: Guelph Jazz Festival with The Blulette plus, violinist, David Prentice.
- December 2000: with Frank Gratowski and Eyvind Kang, Creative Music Guild, Portland OR
- Vision Festival 2000: with Joe McPhee's Blulette.
- May 2000: Joe McPhee and The World Bass Quartet: month long tour of France including performances at Europa Jazz Festival, Le Mans, AJMI, Avignon, les Instants Chavires, Paris, Le Pannonica, Nantes, and Le Petit Fauchaux, Tours
- Running Man, a chamber jazz opera by Diedre Murray: in 2000 for the Tanglewood Festival, and in 1999 at the Prince Theater in Philadelphia, PA
- Time Flies Series 1998: Coastal Jazz and Blues Society with Gianni Gebbia, Carlo Actis Dato, Joe McPhee, Eyvind Kang, Lauro Rossi and Lori Freidman among others
- 1997 east coast tour: duos with Joe McPhee including the Jazz Arts Festival, Washington DC.
- James Emery/Michael Bisio Duo 1997: Velvet Elvis Arts Lounge, Seattle, WA and for Portland's Creative Music Guild.
- Sept. 1996: A concert celebrating Albert Ayler's 60th birthday, Washington Square Church, NYC. With Joe McPhee, Amiri Baraka, Diedre Murray, Joseph Jarman, Jim Nolet and Sunny Murray.
- 1993 Charles Gayle Trio west coast tour.
- 1990 International Creative Music Orchestra: included Andrew Cyrille, Larry Ochs, Julian Priester, Lisle Ellis, Wayne Horvitz and Conrad Bauer, performed for the Earshot Jazz Festival and at the Vancouver East Cultural center.
- du Maurier/Vancouver,(BC), Jazz Festival: Michael first performed there in 1989 with his quartet and over the next ten years performed with his quintet, Charles Gayle, John Tchai, Marilyn Crispell, Phil Haynes, Joe McPhee and Wayne Horvitz.
- Earshot Jazz Festivals: Michael Bisio Quartet performed at the first one in 1986, and Michael has performed at subsequent ones with such diverse artist as Wayne Horvitz, Charles Gayle, Lee Konitz, Eyvind Kang, Joe McPhee, The New York Composeris Orchestra West and many others

## **Awards,Honors**

2005 - CityArtists Program grant, City of Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs

2003 - Artist Trust Fellowship

2003 - CityArtists Program grant, City of Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs

2002 - King County Arts Special Projects Program grant

2001 - Seattle Artists Program Award, Seattle Arts Commission

1998 - Artist Trust award, GAP grant

1997 - Duo concert with Joe McPhee, Jazz Inside Out: Best Sounds of the Year, Seattle Times and a Golden Ear Award, for best concert 1997, Earshot Jazz.

1996 - Golden Ear Award for Covert Choreography, (Cadence Records)

Artist Support Program grant 1995, Jack Straw Productions

GAP grant, Artist Trust, 1995

In Seattle, ( Silkheart Records) "Best Jazz Record's of the 1980's", Village Voice

Washington State Arts Commission Artist in Residence Program 1986-1988

Ours, (CT Records), Editors and Critics Choice,Cadence Magazine, 1983

For more info see "What the Critics Say" in Michael's biography [home.earthlink.net/~bisio/](http://home.earthlink.net/~bisio/)

## **As an Educator**

Bass Instructor Bennington College beginning fall 2009

Private instructor

North Seattle Community College, winter quarter 2003 - spring 2005, adjunct instructor: composition, improvisation and bass

Clinics, workshops and residencies including: Arizona State University, 1998. Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, Vancouver BC, 1995. New School, NYC 1994, Composer in residence Franklin High School, Seattle,WA. Experience Music Project Demo Labs in 2000, 2001, 2002 and RPI, Troy, NY

Volunteer work in Seattle School District and The Northwest School

Washington State Arts Commission, Artist in Residence, late 1980's.

1979: taught bass as part of the Magnet Program in Seattle Schools

## Education Background

Bachelor of Music: University of Washington 1979. Studied with James Harnett, William O. Smith and Stuart Dempster.

State University of New York at Albany 1973-75. Studied with David Cobb.

Chattauqua Institute, 1975, on scholarship, studied with James Harnett

Congress of Strings, 1974, on scholarship, studied with Barry Green.

Saratoga School of Orchestral Studies. Studied with Roger Scott on scholarship, 1973.

## Discography

### *As a leader:*

- *Travel Music* (MJB)\*
- *AM* (CIMP) 2009
- *live at Vision Fest. XII* (Not Two) 2009
- *Collar City Createology* (MJB) 2009
- *CIMP 360: Circle This* (CIMP) 2007
- *Connections* (CIMP) 2005
- *Composance*, (Cadence) 2004\*
- *Undulations*, (Omnitone) 2000
- *Covert Choreography* (Cadence) 1996\*
- *In Seattle* (Silkheart) 1988
- *Ours* (CT Records)1983\*

### *As a co-leader:*

- *Floating Ice*, Michael Bisio/Matthew Shipp (Relative Pitch) 2012
- *My Brother*, Gary Hassay/Michael Bisio (Konnex) 2011
- *Three*, SKM (clean feed) 2010
- *Session at 475 Kent* , Connie Crothers/Michael Bisio, (MutableMusic) 2010
- *Live at the Yippie*, duets with Lorenzo Sanguedolce (No Business Records) 2009
- *Pulling Strings*, duets with Tomas Ulrich (CIMP) 2006
- *Painting Breath, Stoking Fire*, duets with Avram Fefer (CIMP) 2005
- *Primal Intentions*, duets with Joe Giardullo (Cadence) 2001
- *Concerted*, duets with Dan Blunck (Cadence) 2001
- *MBEK*, duets with Eyvind Kang (Meniscus) 2000\*
- *Zebulon*, duets with Joe McPhee (CIMP) 1999
- *Finger Wigglers*, duets with Joe McPhee (CIMP) 1997

**With:**

- Ivo Perelman *The Edge* (Leo) 2013
- Matthew Shipp, *Greatest Hits* (Thirsty Ear) 2013
- *Thunk* (Not Two Records) 2012
- Charles Gayle, *Look Up* (ESP) 2012
- Ivo Perelman, *The Gift* (Leo) 2012
- Scott Davidson, *Dreamland* 2012
- Matthew Shipp, *Elastic Aspects* (Thirsty Ear) 2012
- Jason Kao Hwang/Spontaneous River, *Symphony of Souls* (Mulatta Records) 2011
- Louie Belogenis Trio, *Tiresias* (Porter Records) 2011
- Tomas Ulrich's Cargo Cult, *Discoveries*(CIMP) 2011
- Oluyemi Thomas, *Positive Knowledge - Edgefest Edition* (Not Two) 2011
- Matthew Shipp, *Art of the Improviser* (Thirsty Ear) 2011
- Bob Gluck, *Returning* (FMR) 2011
- Scanner with The Post Modern Jazz Quartet *Blink of an Eye* (Thirsty Ear) 2010
- David Arner Trio, *Porgy/Bess Act 2* (CIMP) 2010
- Tomas Ulrich's Cargo Cult, *Lonely House* (CIMP) 2010
- Tomas Ulrich's Cargo Cult (CIMP) 2009
- David Arner Trio, *Porgy/Bess Act I* (CIMP) 2009
- David Arner Trio, *Out/In the Open* (Not Two) 2009
- David Haney Trio, *Blue Flint Girl* (CIMP) 2009
- Old Dog, *By Any Other Name* (Porter Records) 2009
- Jimmy Bennington Trio, *Another Friend* (ThatSwan! Records) 2009
- Nicole Peyrafitte, *Whisked Not Stirred* (Ta'wil) 2009
- Jack Gold Molina Trio, *Colored Houses* (Soldisk) 2009
- Tomas Ulrich's Cargo Cult, *If You Should Go* (Cadence) 2009
- Joe McPhee and the World Bass Quartet, *Angels, Devils and Haints* (CJR) 2009
- Bob Gluck, *Sideways* (FMR) 2008
- Stephen Gauci, *Basso Continuo* (clean feed) 2008
- Pierre Joris, *Routes, not Roots* (Ta'wil) 2007
- Nicole Peyrafitte, *The Bi-Continental Chowder* (Ta'wil) 2007
- Stephen Gauci Trio, *Substratum* (CIMP) 2007
- David Haney Trio, *Blues Royale* (CIMP) 2006
- Joe McPhee, *Port of Saints* (CJR) 2006
- The Gauci Trio, *Long Night Waiting* (Cadence) 2005

- Joe McPhee, *Remembrance* (CJR) 2005
- Jack Gold 4tet, *Daylight* (Sol Disk) 2004
- Bob Nell Trio, *Soft and Bronze* (Plechmo) 2004
- John Heward, *Let Them Pass* (Drimala) 2004
- Joe Giardullo, *Now Is* (Drimala) 2003
- Joe McPhee, *Let Paul Robeson Sing* (CIMP) 2002
- Joe Giardullo, *Shadow and Light* (Drimala) 2002
- Bob Nell, *Baby Steps* (nell) 2000
- Joe McPhee, *No Greater Love* (CIMP) 2000
- Joe McPhee, *In the Spirit* (CIMP) 1999
- Craig Flory, *Wigwam Bendix* (Franchise Records) 1998
- Charles Gocher, *Pint Sized Spartacus* (GVR) 1997
- Vinny Golia, *Dante No Longer Repents* (Music and Arts) 1997
- Joe McPhee, *Common Threads* (Deep Listening) 1996
- Rob Blakeslee Quintet, *Long Narrows* (Nine Winds) 1995
- Scarlatti, *Sacred Choral Works* (Carus) 1991
- Bob Nell, *Chasin' a Classic* (Cadence) 1984
- Barbara Donald & Unity, *The Past and Tomorrows* (Cadence) 1983
- David Zasloff, *The Jazz Club* (Audio Daddio) 1980

\* also produced by Michael

"For years, free improvisers have explored the tactile aspect of performance, in which the nature of the encounter between the player and the instrument becomes the subject of the music itself. Bisio is one of the few musicians that has managed to meld this high-concept sense of physicality with the soulful charge of jazz. His fiddle-high, scraped overtones create a tangled choir that is impossible to resist; his expressiveness with the bow is unmatched. Having whirled the listener into a transportive state, he gently shows the way out..."

Paul DeBarros, Signal to Noise