

Tommy Igoe and the Birdland Big Band

Worldwide Bookings

Please write to bookings@tommyigoe.com for everything relating to booking Tommy and the band for public and private performances and workshops.

Media Inquiries

Tommy welcomes the opportunity to assist editors and Web site owners in producing quality stories and content. Please use the following contact information to get the ball rolling and to obtain high-resolution photography.

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Biography of Tommy Igoe

Tommy Igoe is one of today's most successful and diverse drummers.

Born in New Jersey, Igoe comes from a musical family. Ever since he began drumming as a 2-year-old, it was clear that music would be Tommy's passion. "He had to be dragged away from the drums," said his father, Sonny. During his early years, Igoe spent 15 years studying classical and jazz piano. He credits this experience as having a huge role in crafting his unique career.

Igoe captured just about every junior and senior high school drumming award on the East coast and went on to tour with the Glenn Miller Band when he was just 18. In 1986, his career took off when he became active in the New York recording scene, and simultaneously joined the band **Blood, Sweat and Tears** as their touring drummer.

Through the years that followed, Igoe quickly moved on to other great bands and artists including: **New York Voices, Stanley Jordan, Art Garfunkel** and **Dave Grusin**. This continued until 1997, when he was asked to help create the drumset book for what would become a legendary production: **The Lion King** on Broadway. His book, which integrated the modern drumset with traditional African percussion, established a new benchmark for the drumset voice within musical theatre. It is currently being performed worldwide by many official companies. Igoe is an associate conductor of the Broadway production.



Igoe's latest and most exciting project, **The Birdland Big Band**, is currently the hottest weekly

music event in New York. The band plays every Friday at the legendary Birdland Jazz Club and most show sells out.

"The reaction to this band has been overwhelming," says Igoe. "We're dedicated to bringing large-ensemble jazz to a new 21st century audience and it's obvious that music lovers have been waiting for a band like this. The fans are blown away and they can't get enough." The Birdland Big Band will be recording an all-new studio CD in 2011.



Education plays a huge part in Igoe's musical genome. Says Igoe, "My father was one of the most respected drum teachers of any era, so I think it's in my blood."



In 2004, Igoe created what has since become a legendary fixture in any serious drummer's collection: *Groove Essentials*[™]. This groundbreaking work has been credited with influencing more teachers and educators than any educational publication of the last 50 years.

Groove Essentials has gone on to become required method work

at many universities and is being used to introduce young players to new styles they may not discover on their own. There are currently more a quarter million copies in use worldwide.

Igoe has long been known for his technical facility on the drumset. This led to the creation of *Great Hands for a Lifetime*, a DVD that helps build a strong technical foundation for a drummer's hands.

The product spotlights Igoe's "Lifetime Warmup," along with other technical influences such as Drum Corps, concert percussion, and hand percussion. *Great Hands for a Lifetime* is currently the drum world's number one selling educational product.



"I'm a hybrid of all these wonderful experiences," says Igoe. "I was taught a great rudimental routine to keep my hands in shape that I wanted to share it with drummers around the world. The Lifetime Warmup[™] is what I credit with keeping my chops healthy and strong over three decades of drumming and now everyone can benefit from it."



The new DVD and book, *Filosophy*[™], will be the third installment in the *Groove Essentials* series. The product will bring Igoe's unique focus and insight into the oft-confusing world of fills and solos.

Igoe says "this work could be very important to drummers since so many students I've met believe that their fills and solos are consistently weak, boring, or just plain bad. A real

opportunity exists to offer an alternative approach to mastering fills and solos using the *Groove Essentials* methodology."

You can learn more about Tommy Igoe, view his itinerary, and purchase products at his Web site, www.tommyigoe.com . Igoe is also active on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tommyigoe.

Igoe exclusively plays and endorses the highest quality instruments: Yamaha drums and hardware, Vic Firth sticks, Evans drumheads, Zildjian cymbals, and percussion from LP and Rhythm Tech.

Biographies of the Birdland Big Band

Kenny Ascher Piano

As a keyboard player and/or arranger-orchestrator-conductor, Kenny Ascher has recorded with some of the biggest names in music history, including: John Lennon, Barbra Steisand, Paul Simon, Carly Simon, James Taylor, Rod Stewart, Aretha Franklin, Judy Collins, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Regis Philbin, Billy Joel, Paul Williams, Harry Nilsson, Jim Croce, Phoebe Snow, Perry Como, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Morgana King, Bette Midler, Woody Herman, Patti LaBelle, Pat Williams, John Tropea, Frankie Valli, Tom Scott, Yvonne Elliman, John Prine, Don Payne, Don McLean, Neil Sedaka, Johnny Hartman, Jane Olivor, Bill Quateman, Merry Clayton, The Nuff Brothers, Buzzy Linhart, Lenny Kravitz, Wally Dunbar, Warren Bernhardt, Stephanie Mills, Dave Matthews, Steve Tyrell, Susan Robkin, Meat Loaf, Casey Cysik, Marvin Stamm, Scott Whitfield, and Jane Monheit.



Ascher was the string arranger/orchestrator for Billy Joel's *New York State Of Mind*. Other highlights include:

- With Paul Williams, nominated for Best Song of the Year "You and Me Against The World" (Grammy)
- With Paul Williams, wrote five songs for Streisand's *A Star Is Born* (Nominated for A British Academy Award) - including "Women In The Moon" and "With One More Look At You"
- With Paul Williams, wrote all the songs for *The Muppet Movie* (Nominated for two Academy Awards (Best Song Score and Best Song - "The Rainbow Connection")
- Won a Golden Globe (with Paul Williams) for *A Star Is Born* (Best Song Score)
- With Carole Bayer Sager, wrote a Top Ten Rhythm and Blues hit for *The Moments* ("With You")
- Pianist and Arranger for Diet Pepsi/Ray Charles Campaign – "Uh-Huh, You Got the Right One, Baby"

Glenn Drewes Trumpet

Glenn Drewes is one of the most in-demand trumpet players on the New York City freelance scene.

His diverse career has spanned the likes of jazz greats Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Dizzy Gillespie and Mel Lewis, to today's pop artists, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Harry Connick, Jr., David Sanborn and P Diddy. In addition to being heard on hundreds of jingles, feature films, network award shows and sports themes, Mr. Drewes can be heard every day on the popular children's educational show, *Sesame Street*.

Currently, Drewes is working on his sixteenth Broadway production, *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN*. He is also leading his own jazz quintet, serving as a clinician for high school and college festivals, as well as holding the coveted jazz trumpet chair for the Birdland Big Band.

He is also teaching at C.W. Post University on Long Island.



Chris Jaudes Trumpet

Chris Jaudes has just finished playing the Broadway production of *LoveMusik* directed by Hal Prince. He was recently cited in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* for his outstanding trumpet solos in the Broadway hit production of *Gypsy* starring Bernadette Peters.

A much sought-after lead player, Jaudes' other Broadway shows include *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Flower Drum Song* with Lea Salonga, *Gypsy* and *Annie Get Your Gun* with Bernadette Peters and Reba McEntire, *Ragtime* with Brian Stokes Mitchell, *On The Town*, *Sunset Blvd.* with Glenn Close, *Steel Pier*, *CATS* and *Peter Pan* with Cathy Rigby. He has toured with *Evita*, *Peter Pan*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, and *South Africa Rejoice*.



He can be heard on the Grammy award winning albums of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy* as well as cast albums of *Flower Drum Song*, *Ragtime*, *Sunset Blvd.*, and *Steel Pier*.

Jaudes has been a featured soloist throughout the United States and around the world. His versatile playing style has given him opportunities to perform with The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Oklahoma City Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Carolina Pops Orchestra, as well as with a number of ensembles in the New York area. He has performed as a soloist at the New York Brass Conference, International Trumpet Guild Conference, and the Brass Arts Festival in London.

Jaudes is honored to be a member of The Brass Band of Battle Creek, the premier brass band in the United States, and has been a featured soloist and clinician at both the International Women's Brass Conference and the National Trumpet Competition in 2006. His solo CD is available at ChrisJaudes.com. Chris serves on the faculty at the Juilliard School in the Jazz Studies program.

Nick Marcione **Trumpet**

A respected performer and avid educator, trumpeter Nick Marchione has spent his entire life in music. Originally raised with a classical background, he switched his focus to jazz while studying at the Mannes College of Music in NYC and has subsequently worked with such legendary figures as Michel Legrand, Phil Woods, Aretha Franklin, Paul Anka, and Jerry Goldsmith.

Since 1999, Marcione has lived in New York City working in the jazz scene as well as various Broadway shows including lead trumpet for Mel Brooks' *The Producers* and Disney's new musical *The Little Mermaid*.

From 2002-2006, he was also a member of the world-renowned jazz/rock group Blood, Sweat, and Tears.



John Walsh **Trumpet** (photo coming)

Trumpeter John Walsh, who as a youth imagined he was born to play drums, became a trumpet player at age 12.

He first studied trumpet with Fred Baker of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra before attending Western Michigan University to study with Dr. Steven Jones. In 1985, he came to New York City to study with Dr. Eddie Henderson at Long Island University.

Since moving to New York, Mr. Walsh has performed and/or recorded with Tito Puente, Mel Torme, Lionel Hampton, Paul Simon, Eddie Palmieri, The Chico O'Farrill Orchestra, Chris Washburne & SYOTOS, Duke Ellington Orchestra, The Machito Orchestra, Johnny Pacheco, Wyclf Jean, Max Roach, Celia Cruz, La India, Tito Nieves, Ray Barretto, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and the Barrio Boyz, among many others.

Isrea Butler
Trombone

Isrea Butler began his career as a trombonist with the 1st Marine Division Band in CA in 1996. While in CA, he performed with many jazz and Latin jazz greats as well as in various classical orchestras. He spent a year in Tucson, AZ, attending school and performing.

In 2000, Butler transferred to The Eastman School of Music in Rochester where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. There, he studied with Dr. John Marcellus, Ralph Sauer, and Clay Jenkins. While still in school, Butler performed with both the Rochester and Buffalo Philharmonics in addition to many other jazz and classical groups in the upstate NY region.

Since moving to NYC in 2006, Butler has performed, toured, and recorded with many groups including: the Orchestras of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Charles Mingus, Frank Foster, Lionel Hampton, and Clark Terry. He also has subbed regularly on Broadway on *The Color Purple* and *The Lion King*.

In NYC, he performs with The Birdland Big Band, The Sultans of Swing, Andy Farber's Big Band, George Gee, Valery Ponomarev, and The Harlem Renaissance Orchestra. He can be seen regularly at Birdland, The Iridium, Fat Cat, The Garage, Caf Iguana, and Swing 46.



Rob Middleton
Tenor Sax, Flute

Rob Middleton is a prize-winning composer and an active saxophonist and teacher in the New York area. He has performed with many jazz greats, including Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Phil Woods, Harry Connick Jr., Lionel Hampton, The New York Voices, Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Lovano, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Woody Shaw, Oliver Lake, David Liebman, Randy Brecker, John Faddis, Joe Williams, George Coleman, Jimmy Cobb and has recorded with Lionel Hampton and others.

Middleton's performance career has taken him to major jazz clubs and festivals all over the world, including the JVC Jazz Festival at Lincoln Center in New York, the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and the Grande Parade du Jazz in Nice, France. His recent New York club and concert appearances include engagements at the Blue Note, at the Village Vanguard, and numerous performances at Birdland with the Birdland Big Band and at Merkin Hall in New York where the



BMI New York Jazz Composers Orchestra has played his compositions. He has led ensembles large and small, including the NewYorkestra Big Band, which performs regularly in and around New York City, and the Rob Middleton Quartet.

His compositions and arrangements are performed regularly in the New York area. He writes for various ensembles including NewYorkestra, the BMI New York Jazz Composers Orchestra and the New Jersey based Composers Big Band. The bands of Ray Charles and Lionel Hampton have played his compositions as well. His arrangement of "Windmills of Your Mind," recorded by the Chico O' Farrill Afro-Cuban jazz big band featuring Rob as the soloist, can be heard in the 1999 hit movie *The Thomas Crown Affair*. Rob's other recordings include the recently released CD *Urban Soundscapes* by the band NewYorkestra.

In addition to being a busy performer and composer, Middleton is a professor of music at Caldwell College in Caldwell, New Jersey and an instructor at the Suburban Community Music Center in Murray Hill, New Jersey and maintains an active teaching studio in the area.

Nathan Childers **Alto and Soprano Sax, Flute**

Nathan Childers is a saxophonist, composer, Yamaha Performing Artist, and RICO Reed Artist. He currently lives in New York City as a freelance musician.

Originally from Vermont, Childers has been playing the saxophone since he was 10-years-old. He began his musical study as a pianist at the age of seven.

Childers started playing professional gigs at the age of 13. He "learned the ropes" by tagging alongside his father (jazz trumpeter Gene Childers) as a sideman. After discovering a love for the saxophone, he went on to earn three degrees in music, including an M.M. degree in Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media from the Eastman School of Music; B.M. degree in Jazz Studies and Afro-American Music from the University of Massachusetts; and B.M. degree in Classical Saxophone Performance from the University of Massachusetts.



Childers works with many of the world's finest performers and ensembles. He currently performs every Friday with the Birdland Big Band, directed by Tommy Igoe.

As a soloist and composer, Childers has been recognized by several national organizations such as *Downbeat Magazine*, *The Saxophone Journal*, BMI Composers Workshop, ASCAP, Hilton Head Jazz Society and the U.S. State Department.

In addition to a full performing schedule, Childers is an active educator and composer. He is currently the Coordinator of the MILES Winds and Brass program at the Third Street Music School Settlement (the oldest community music school in the United States).

Childers founded the Horizons Music Academy in New Canaan, Connecticut. He has also been an artist-in-residence at The University of Massachusetts, Amherst College and Ithaca College. He has been commissioned to compose on several occasions and is currently the staff soundtrack composer for the Visual Learning Company.

As an artist, Childers strives to immerse himself in all types of music. He believes firmly in the process of collaboration and mutual respect across the musical spectrum. As written by Shaun Dale of the Jazz Review, Nathan has a "willingness to explore some unusual approaches that leave me wondering, in a positive way, what directions he may take in the future, but the place he's in right now is well worth your attention."

Performances and recordings include: the Birdland Big Band, Buddy Rich Memorial Live Concert & DVD, Franki Vali, The Funk Brothers, The Temptations, The John Fedchock Big Band, Deana Martin (Daughter of Dean Martin), The Steve Schirripa TV Show, Broadway Theater League Orchestra, Come Fly Away (Broadway: Pit Musician), Memphis (Broadway: Pit Musician), The Wedding Singer (Broadway: Pit Musician), Hunka Hunka Burnin' Love (Off-Broadway: Pit Musician), 2007 Gracie Awards (Band Member), Sex And The City 2 (Motion Picture: On-Camera Band Member), Wall Street 2 (Motion Picture: On-Camera Band Member), Mike Stern, Dave Weckl, Will Lee, Conrad Korsch, Molly Ringwald, Ana Gasteyer, Neil Peart, Chad Smith, Terry Bozzio, Peter Erskine, James Genus, Daryl Hall.

Matt Hong **Alto saxophonist**

Alto saxophonist Matt Hong graduated from Harvard University and received a Masters from Manhattan School of Music.

In the early 1990s, he taught jazz history at Harvard while maintaining a freelance music career in Boston. Hong has lived in NYC since 1993, and has played around the world with many bands including Guillermo Klein, Illinois Jacquet, and David Berger's Sultans of Swing.

He has worked in the orchestras of many hit Broadway musicals, and currently appears nightly in the Tony Award-winning musical Jersey Boys. He continues to lead his own projects as well.



Jeff Nelson **Trombone**

Jeff Nelson has become one of New York's busiest bass trombone players.

Originally from the upstate village of Scotia, NY, Nelson has toured all over the world with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Dave Holland, Lionel Hampton, Maria Schneider, Slide Hampton, Stefon Harris, and Louie Bellson, as well as with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Mingus Big Band, Manhattan Jazz Orchestra, and Carnegie Hall Jazz Band.

He is also a member of the Gotham Wind Symphony, Hora Decima Brass Ensemble, and Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble. Nelson has appeared on stage with Luciano Pavarotti, Diana Ross, Tony Bennett, Michael McDonald, Frankie Valli, Korn, and the Manhattan Transfer.

On Broadway, he has held chairs in the orchestras of *Sunset Boulevard*, *Titanic*, *Fosse*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Sweet Charity*, *White Christmas*, *West Side Story*, *Come Fly Away*, and *Elf*, and has subbed in many others. He has recorded with many artists, such as Dave Liebman, Terence Blanchard, Sting, Kenny Werner, Vanessa Williams, James Carter, and Harry Connick, Jr.



He has also been heard on numerous TV and radio jingles, sports themes, and movie soundtracks. A CD with his own group, the New York Trombone Conspiracy, entitled *A Matter of Time*, was released several years ago to critical acclaim.

Nelson joined the Birdland Big Band in the Summer of 2010.

Dan Willis **Woodwinds**

Dan Willis, one of New York City's most active and versatile woodwind specialists, performs regularly across a wide spectrum of music from Jazz to New Music. He is the newest member of the multimedia ensemble *VIA* (Vision Into Art) and is featured on their latest recording *Traveling Songs* playing saxes, oboes, duduk (traditional Armenian folk double-reed instruments) and the EWI (electronic wind instrument).

Willis was also a featured performer on the *udkuk* and the *zurna*, at the New York premiere of *Strophes*, a work composed by Yakov Koslov. He is also a member of The Gotham Wind Symphony Dan and has also been a regular addition to the NY Pops and NY Philharmonic.

All of these endeavors attest to the rich vocabulary within his musical language. In addition to his work in the classical genre, he has toured Japan and the U.S. with Michael Brecker's Grammy winning Ensemble 'Quindectet', performed with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, toured with Don Henley, and arranged for Bone, Thugs and Harmony.



Willis is also a member of the Roland Vasquez Big Band, the Grammy Nominated John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, and recorded on the duduk as a featured artist for the Rob Thomas solo CD single *All That I Am* (Grammy Nominated). He is also a frequent collaborator with the

Baby Einstein Classical Music Educational Series performing on flute, oboe, English horn and clarinet.

Willis joined the Birdland Big Band in the Summer of 2010.

Andy Hunter Saxophones

Andy Hunter is an exciting, bold new voice on the New York music scene. A highly experienced leader and in-demand side man, he performs around the world with high profile artists such as the Mingus Big Band/Dynasty, Richard Bona, Nnenna Freelon, T.S. Monk's tentet, and recently Dave Holland's Big Band and the Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin Big Band.



Hunter is very active in New York City with bands ranging from the Birdland Big Band, the Bill Lee Natural Spiritual Orchestra, several popular Cuban groups, Colombian folkloric, salsa and funk bands. He is a prolific composer and highly awarded soloist, with credits such as first prize in the 2002 International Trombone Association Jazz Competition, the 2005 Antti Rissanen International Jazz Competition in Helsinki Finland and the ETW national jazz trombone competition in Washington D.C. in 2006. He was also a popular finalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz competition of 2003.

Some of the musicians he feels honored to have performed or recorded with include: The Saturday Night Live Band, The Mingus Big Band, Mingus Dynasty and Mingus Orchestra, The Dave Holland Big Band, Richard Bona, T.S. Monk, The Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin Big Band, The Birdland Big Band, Ruben Blades, The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Slide Hampton and the World of Trombones, The Temptations, Martha and the Vandellas, The Drifters, Nnenna Freelon, Billy Hart, Marcus Belgrave, Cui Jian, Dave Binney, Michael Mossman, Robin Eubanks, Conrad Herwig, Dave Kikoski, Monday Michiru, Alex Sipiagin, Gene Jackson, Jeff Tain Watts, Bill Lee, Ralph Bowen, Jonathan Blake, Frankie Negron, Peter Dominguez, John Fedchock, Leslie Gore, Terry Gibbs, Wendell Logan, Ernie Krivda, Nils Landgren, the Guy Lombardo Orchestra, The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Sam Moore (Sam and Dave), Dick Contino, Dennis Mackrel, Tito Nieves, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Johnny Rivera, Adalberto Santiago, Yomo Toro, Albita Rodriguez, Greg Bandy, Donald Walden, and Dan Wall.

Hunter joined the Birdland Big Band in the Summer of 2010.

Barbara Cifelli
Baritone Sax, Flute

Barbara Cifelli has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MFA from SUNY Purchase. Barbara is the baritone saxophonist for the Birdland Big Band. Cifelli also plays various flutes and clarinets.

An active freelance musician, Cifelli has worked in a variety of settings from Broadway to the stage of Buster Poindexter to the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall. She is a member of the New York Nonet, The Ed Palermo Band, and the Diane Moser's Composers Big Band.

Cifelli is the leader of the classical trio Skylark. She has taught for Concordia and Hunter Colleges, as well as for NYU.



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