



We Love Jazz

About the Program

We Love Jazz is an educational program designed for students 5 to 15 yrs. old by internationally renowned trombonist and educator Clifton Anderson. The program teaches students about the basic meaning, origin and history of Jazz, as well as its major musical contributors in a fun and interactive setting. We Love Jazz educates students while stimulating interest and curiosity about music, particularly Jazz music.

The program is a 45 mins.-1hr. presentation. Each program is tailored to suit the particular age group in attendance, so presentations may vary.

Included in the program is a fast paced discussion about the three basic components of music. These points are highlighted to springboard into a demonstration of how improvisation is created. We Love Jazz demonstrates the roots of improvisation, by highlighting West African scales and rhythms, European instruments and harmonies, and their fusion through the African-American experience. Examples of 'call and response' and the significance of 'the blues' are explained and performed with participation from the students.

All performances are by Clifton Anderson and his stellar ensemble, usually consisting of trombone, piano, bass and drums. A brief demonstration of each instrument and its role is given by each band member. Contributions by some of the greatest names in Jazz like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Charlie Parker, Thelonius Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis and John Coltrane are discussed and played culminating with a special performance of a Clifton Anderson original composition.

Students are encouraged to participate by singing, clapping and answering questions based on the presentation. A special gift is given to each student who answers questions correctly.

About Clifton Anderson

Clifton Anderson is one of the leading trombonists performing in music today. Throughout his career, Clifton has shared stage and studio with such musical luminaries as Sonny Rollins, McCoy Tyner, Dizzy Gillespie, Slide Hampton, Lester Bowie, Stevie Wonder, Keith Richards, Paul Simon, The Mighty Sparrow, Merv Griffin, and many others. He has appeared on Broadway, performing in *Dreamgirls* and *Nine*.

Born in Harlem, New York City into a musical family, Clifton showed an affinity for music at an early age. At 7 yrs. old, he received his first trombone from his uncle, Jazz legend Sonny Rollins. Clifton furthered his education at the prestigious Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and later graduated from the Manhattan School Of Music. In 1983 Clifton joined Sonny Rollins' group and became a featured soloist and producer participating in many world tours and recordings. From 1999-2001 Clifton was an Artist In Residence at Duke University.

In 1997, Clifton recorded his first CD for Milestone Records (Concord) entitled *Landmarks*. His second CD release in 2009, entitled *Decade* (Doxy/Universal) garnered critical acclaim, leading Clifton to a nomination for "Trombonist Of The Year" by The American Jazz Journalist Association. The success of *Decade* allowed Clifton to transition into a solo career leaving the Sonny Rollins band in 2009. Clifton's third release, *And So We Carry On* was voted one of the "Top Jazz CD Releases Of 2012" by Jazz Inside Magazine. *And So We Carry On* reached #4 on Jazz radio in the United States, remaining in the top 20 for several months.

Clifton's live shows follow the standard set by his recordings. He has developed a loyal following, very enthusiastic and appreciative of his music. Clifton Anderson showcases his stellar compositions in quartet, quintet & sextet configurations, interpreting a variety of swinging originals, high energy, straight ahead melodies, calypso, funk rhythms and American Jazz songbook standards.