
RON TAYLOR BIOGRAPHY

Ron Taylor may not be a household name, yet, but mention his name to Jazz aficionados and you'll get a smile and a story. Ron's journey with jazz began in the 60's at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York. Acts at the Apollo like Nancy Wilson, Oscar Brown Jr., Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and Cannonball Adderly's Sextet opened ten year old Ron's eyes, ears and even his mouth. It was a wrap. Ron knew exactly where and what he wanted to be when he grew up...on stage playing jazz. He was relentless. By the 80's Ron mushroomed into one of the top trumpeters on the New York jazz scene joining many of the luminaries he saw as a kid in Harlem including Art Blakely, Lionel Hampton and Eartha Kitt. Working with Peter Tosh, Byron Lee and many A-List artists also expanded his repertoire. Touring Europe, Africa, and South America further honed his skills and love for jazz. Ron's world debut CD, **Crazy Love Jazz**, is a culmination of his experiences, passion and focus.

Ron's immersion into varying genres of music can be heard and felt on **Crazy Love Jazz**. The CD resonates with melodies and chord changes straight out of Bebop, with fast moving heads and two beats a piece changes, but then wait...listen carefully. *"It's very deceptive,"* says Ron, *"they don't sound as complex as they really are. Some tunes mix Calypso, Samba R&B, and Bebop simultaneously."* Sweet! This is the result of a great musician performing just about everywhere from Mississippi to Morocco. In **Crazy Love Jazz** Ron brilliantly weaves the alluring qualities of R&B, Latin, Funk and Jazz into a mosaic of musical colors. In a recent interview Ron states, *"My songs are like my children. Each has their own personality. I love "Sheila", it wrote itself. The melody rings in my ear and I like to think that it came from a special place. "Once Is Not Enough" just keeps building, from one solo to the next. By the end of the piano solo the cats are on fire. "For Heather" is just a flat out beautiful tune... great melodic solo work by Jacques Lesure on guitar and Gary Motley on piano. The long list of amazing and diverse musicians helped capture various moods and attitudes."*

Like a bottle of great wine, it was time this phenomenal self-taught trumpeter needed to make his dream come true. But with years spent in the studio and on stage with musical legends such as Marcus Miller, Stevie Wonder, TS Monk and JT Taylor (Kool and the Gang) and study sessions with Lee Morgan, Kenny Dorham, Vincent Penzarella and mentor Jimmy Owens; Ron knew it was time to give back. As trumpet teacher he adds great value to his community through mentoring a diverse roll call of students from 9 to 90 years old including the who's who in Atlanta's best High School and College Bands/Orchestras. He has earned respect from fans, friends and family alike. World-class trombonist, Clifton Anderson says, *"I consider Ron among the upper echelon of musicians working today."* While pianist Rasheed Ali says, *"Musically, he is one of the finest musicians I know."* High School student Jamey Homesley recalls, *"Ron taught me a lot...he helped me make honor band at top chair a few times."* Finally, Lisa Walker Coordinator of 21st Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival affirms, *"...clearly you are one of the finest musicians the city has to offer."*

Ron and his new CD **Crazy Love Jazz** may be decades away from some of his more famous recording sessions that yielded timeless party favorites like *"Hot, Hot, Hot"* by Mighty Sparrow; but its Ron's time to shine. His hopes? That *"GOD is pleased with what I've done. Or better still, with what (S)HE was able to do through me."*

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