

TODD MARCUS

"Todd Marcus, the virtuoso bass clarinetist and composer, is a master of straight-ahead jazz." –*The Baltimore Sun*

"Listeners won't have any trouble recognizing Marcus's compelling gifts for composing and arranging."
–*The Washington Post*

"Marcus is not only one of the great individualists in jazz, he's also a great composer..." –*New York Music Daily*



Baltimore based jazz musician, composer and bandleader Todd Marcus demonstrates virtuosity and versatility as a modern jazz instrumentalist breaking new ground. He is one of the few jazz artists worldwide to focus on the use of the bass clarinet as a primary soloing instrument and has been voted a Rising Star by jazz's *DownBeat* magazine in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

In concert he swings hard with modern jazz by the likes of Charlie Parker, Benny Golson and Thelonious Monk and captures the lyrical beauty of composers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin.

While clearly inspired by straight-ahead jazz and classical influences, Marcus has extensively explored the Middle Eastern sounds of his Egyptian-American heritage. Breaking new ground on the jazz frontier, his recent compositions are helping to expand the musical horizons of sophisticated jazz listeners.

Marcus has performed internationally and led his jazz orchestra and smaller ensembles in a host of venues. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall in New York, SFJazz in San Francisco, and the Cairo Jazz Festival in Egypt. Based in Baltimore he often performs at the Baltimore Museum of Art and Creative Alliance in Baltimore as well as The Kennedy Center, Bohemian Caverns, and Blues Alley in Washington, D.C. He regularly works along the East Coast in New York City, Philadelphia and in many other cities. He was a featured guest at the first World Bass Clarinet Convention in Rotterdam, Holland where he was recognized for both his compositions and unique solo voice.

He has worked with jazz artists Bennie Maupin, Don Byron, Larry Willis, Odean Pope, Tim Warfield, Ralph Peterson, Sean Jones, George Colligan, Orrin Evans, Joel Frahm, Xavier Davis, Mike Formanek, and Gary Thomas. Marcus is also a strong clinician and has led jazz workshops and residencies in many cities.

Booking Contact: Jazz Beyond Borders

443-702-7016 | canada.arts@gmail.com | jazzbeyondborders.com



Blues for Tahrir
2015



Inheritance
2012



In Pursuit of the 9th Man
2009

Marcus's three albums on HIPNOTIC Records have earned critical acclaim and radio play. His jazz orchestra's 2015 release *Blues for Tahrir* and 2006 debut *In Pursuit of the 9th Man* balance driving, high-energy material with a lyrical side and show he is not only a gifted composer/arranger but also a fiery soloist.

His quartet album *Inheritance* was selected as one of the top 10 jazz CDs of 2012 by NPR and jazz's *DownBeat*

Magazine raved, "From the beginning, the disc is an explosion of straight-ahead jazz, with superb supporting roles played by the rest of his band."

toddmarcusjazz.com

TODD MARCUS

BASS CLARINETIST, COMPOSER & BANDLEADER

BIOGRAPHY

Todd Marcus has carved out a new place in jazz as the leading artist to present the bass clarinet with a modern straight-ahead jazz approach. His music swings hard with a great intensity balanced by a strong lyrical sensibility. His unique work features Middle Eastern influences reflecting his Egyptian-American heritage and includes arrangements of jazz standards.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Marcus began music at age six with piano lessons and clarinet at age 10. In high school he was introduced to jazz but told clarinets were not allowed in the school jazz band and was turned away. His move to Baltimore to study political science at Loyola University however brought a chance to join the school's jazz ensembles and he quickly took to the music.

In 1997 Marcus stopped school to live and work in west Baltimore, focusing on community work with Habitat for Humanity and then Newborn Holistic Ministries. By night he continued his study of jazz teaching himself theory and improvisation and switched to the bass clarinet after hearing a record by jazz legend Eric Dolphy. In 1998 Marcus returned to New Jersey to complete his college degree in urban studies at Rutgers University but spent a majority of his time at the school's jazz department.

Since 1999 Marcus has lived in Baltimore, devoting himself to dual careers as a jazz artist and community activist. His music career has blossomed to include two critically acclaimed albums, multiple ensembles, composition and arranging commissions, and prestigious national grants.

His community work has taken a similar trajectory where as the Executive Director of Newborn Holistic Ministries he has worked to address poverty in his community. The nonprofit has established Martha's Place, a recovery program for women overcoming drug addiction and homelessness, and Jubilee Arts which offers children and adults with alternatives to drugs and violence. The group's work has also included community revitalization through the renovation of multiple abandoned building, vacant lots and beautification projects creating green spaces and murals.

Voted a Rising Star in Annual Critics Poll for 'clarinet' and 'miscellaneous instrument' categories. -DownBeat 2015, 2014 & 2013

Bass clarinetist and composer Todd Marcus is one of the few jazz artists worldwide to focus exclusively on the use of the bass clarinet as a primary soloing instrument.

The distinctive and distinguished bandleader offers several ensembles ranging in size and budget. The groups perform jazz standards and Marcus' own compositions which increasingly reflect the Middle Eastern influences of his Egyptian-American heritage.

ENSEMBLES INCLUDE:

- Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra (bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, flute, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums & optional vocalist)
- Todd Marcus Quartet (bass clarinet/clarinet, piano, bass & drums)
- Todd Marcus Trio (bass clarinet/clarinet, bass & drums)
- Todd Marcus Duo (bass clarinet/clarinet & piano)

Each ensemble is also able to provide interactive educational clinics and workshops for students and adults in conjunction with concert performances.

SIZE OF ENSEMBLES: 2 - 9 musicians

FEE RANGE: \$750 - \$6,000

EDUCATIONAL / RESIDENCY FEE RANGE: \$750 - \$6,000

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: Minimum Stage Dimensions: 15'x15'

Audio Support Equipment: professional sound system (microphones, monitors, mixing board)

Lighting: basic stage lighting system with assortment of colored gels.

Preferred: presenter supplies piano, drum set, music stands

Rehearsal Space is optional.



"...an incredible bass clarinet player, arranger, and composer."

-The Urbanite

"Masterfully performed solos."

-Examiner.com

"Marcus...is clearly what the jazz polls call a 'rising star' - as a composer-arranger and as a bass clarinetist. In Marcus' hands, the bass clarinet is no longer a specialty instrument. Its unique timbral richness becomes incisive, fully capable of forceful expression."

-JazzTimes

Booking Contact: Jazz Beyond Borders

443-702-7016 | canada.arts@gmail.com | jazzbeyondborders.com

toddmarcusjazz.com