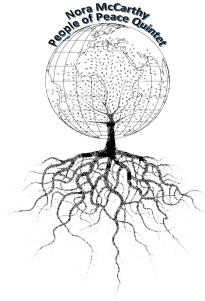


THE PEOPLE OF PEACE QUINTET BIOS



Nora McCarthy, Jorge Sylvester, Andrew Green, Gene Torres, Kenny Grohowski

NORA MCCARTHY (www.noramccarthy.com) is an original voice, unique and exhilarating improviser, composer, poet, lyricist, actor, author, and educator with several decades of experience in the field of jazz and creative music, her sound is reminiscent of the great voices and horns in jazz.

As a prominent member of the New York jazz scene, most notably the downtown music scene representing the avant-garde artist community of musicians and poets, she has established herself as a leader in musical expressionism and modernism as well as straight-ahead jazz and Afro-Caribbean Experimental music.

A devotee of classic jazz, global rhythms, and the fine arts, Nora is a musical colorist, and interpreter of the lyric—a beautiful balladeer in the tradition of the great Jimmy Scott. Her burnished alto voice is steeped in tradition and rich with a distinctive style that cuts a broad swath from classic jazz, the Great American Songbook, modern jazz, bebop, post-bop, soul, rhythm & blues, and beyond.

McCarthy performs in every situation from duo to a twenty-piece large ensemble, from straight ahead jazz to the free and avant-garde idioms. Her original compositions and arrangements are stunning works of art, and she is a gifted poet and lyricist as well. Her powerfully moving delivery of the spoken word and interpretation of the lyrics reflects a deep and intense emotional capacity that communicates directly to her audience heart to heart.

"McCarthy possesses the earthiness of an early blues singer, and the articulation, phrasing and timbre of a jazz trumpet." *Ramsey Ameen, violinist with Cecil Taylor's Unit One*

COMPOSER | LYRICIST: Nora has penned lyrics to dozens of jazz standards in addition to her own original music and that of other jazz composers. She has written over 40 compositions—some are tributes to: Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Grover Washington, and Jimmy Scott. Others are graphic compositions, soundscapes and poetic architectures.

POET: Nora has been writing prose, poetry and word art for several decades which are intermingled with her other singing and vocal improvisations at her performances and in conjunction with her original compositions and those of the other projects and artists she is involved with such as the highly renowned Chorus Of Poets conducted by the late visionary Lawrence D. “Butch” Morris that Nora was a featured member of from 2005 to 2010.

McCarthy began writing the living poem, "Today In America" in 2001. It is a time lapsed look at ongoing events written in a protest poetic style with a broad and far-reaching scope: government, politics, societal, racial, cultural, civil and human rights, and environmental issues, with prophetic and philosophical overtones, anger, and outrage - most recent installment was in 2021. Written for the composition of the same title composed by alto-saxophonist, Jorge Sylvester.

ACTOR: In February - March 2019, McCarthy made her off-Broadway acting debut as Aunt Beth in the play Moral Support, a drama written by Bill Considine, and directed by Félix E. Gardón at Medicine Show Theatre, NYC, where she also participated in several other readings including an opera with music written by: Rainy Orteca and text by Gertrude Stein.

AUTHOR: Through her vast experience in the jazz and creative music field as an improvising singer, Nora has developed a conceptual, profoundly spiritual, and original approach to singing and improvisation and has recently published her first book entitled, *The Spiritual Path to Finding Your Voice* TM
(https://www.amazon.com/author/red_zen_pub)

GROUPS: McCarthy currently leads the following groups: The People of Peace Quintet; The Nora McCarthy Trio; The Panama Red Trio; Nora McCarthy Qu'ART'et; A Small Dream in Red Innovative Voice and Saxophone Duo; Manna For Thought Improvising Trio; The Modern Voice Ensemble; and is co-founder with alto saxophonist Jorge Sylvester of ConceptualMotion Orchestra, a 20piece large ensemble. In addition, Nora is an original member of Sylvester's ACE (Afro Afro-Caribbean-Experimental) Collective and the Extended Edition with Strings Strings—two rhythmically charged groups that perform Sylvester's and McCarthy's original music, her poetry and lyrics.

PERFORMANCES: McCarthy and her groups have performed at the top jazz venues, concert halls, galleries, theatres, performance spaces, concert halls,

universities, and music cafes throughout New York and recently the Tri-State area as well as in Austria, Panama and Podgorica, Montenegro. Most recently: Nublu, NYC for Cadence Jazz Fest, St. Peter's Church, NYC; Springfield, Massachusetts for North Hampton's Jazz Shares Concert Series, UMass; Gala event at the historic Walker House, Newark, NJ; Skoto's Gallery, NYC; Joe's Pub, NYC with Bernard Purdie's and David Haney's long running series, "Jazz Stories", Drom, NYC, Clement's Place in association with Rutgers, Institute of Jazz Studies, Newark, NJ.

Previous regular long-term performances include: The Bar Next Door, a well-known jazz listening room in Greenwich Village from 2014-2020, an 18-year association with Mike Longo's Jazz Tuesday at The Baha'i Center-Dizzy Gillespie Auditorium; A several year residency at The El Taller Latino-Americano, NYC with ConceptualMotion Orchestra; 10-year relationship with The Medicine Show Theatre, NYC. Other notable performances with her own and as a member of her other groups with Jorge Sylvester: Vision Festival, Blue Note, Birdland, Smoke, Smalls, the ISIM (International Society for Improvising Musicians) at the New School and Roulette, NY; Arts for Art - Clemente Soto Velez Cultural & Educational Center, NYC. Nora has performed with the following prestigious musical artists: Jorge Sylvester, Lawrence D. "Butch" Morris, Gunter Hampel, Reggie Workman, Dom Minasi, Marvin Sewell, Jose Davila, Pablo Vergara, Ken Filiano, Essiet Okon Essiet, Donald Nicks, Hill Green, Mike Longo, James Hurt, Lucian Ban, James Weidman, JRay Gallon, Richard Clements, John diMartino, Joshua Wolf, Craig Harris, Tim Armacost, Kuumba Frank Lacy, Hayes Greenfield, Juini Booth, Henry Grimes, Gene Jackson, Dave Gibson, Tony Moreno, Bernard Purdie, as well as the legendary bluesman, Wilson Pickett among many, many other notables.

RADIO: Nora was the featured guest on Mitch Goldman's DEEP FOCUS program on WKCR Columbia University Radio, NYC where she talked about one of her earlier influences, the great Jimmy Scott whom she wrote an extended composition for entitled, "Faith In Time Jimmy's Song." Nora has also been featured on: WCPN, Cleveland, Ohio, Coffee Talk Jazz Radio L.A.; WMUR, Manchester, NH; UK JAZZ RADIO, WUSB Stony Brook, NY, WFDU – A Broad Spectrum – the Ladies of Jazz, Teaneck, NJ, AccuJazz Radio, Good Morning Montenegro TV show and Bourbon Street Jazz TV Show in Hartford, Connecticut. McCarthy's music is also on many popular online radio media outlets.

PODCAST: "Nora's Jazz Show," "What's New?" and "Conversations," podcasts for Cadence Jazz World (<http://www.cadencejazzworld.com>) has presented the

music and most recently, interviews, of creative jazz and avant-jazz, world jazz artists, singers and poets. She includes established and emerging artists.

PRODUCER: From 2017 – 2020, under the auspices of MIC~ART Productions, Nora produced Take It OUT!! Tuesday, a creative music series that presented New York City avant-garde instrumentalists, vocal artists, visual and movement artists, and poets at the legendary Medicine Show Theatre on 52nd Street in NYC.

DISCOGRAPHY: Currently McCarthy has ten CDs out—seven as a leader.

Mayhem at Large - (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2021
Manna For Thought (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2018
blesSINGS (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2016
A Time for Love (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2013
Spirit Driven (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2013
In The Language of Dreams (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2013
Toward The Hill of Joy - George Brandon-Blue Unity Ensemble -
(Blue Unity Music) - 2011
Circle Completing (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2009
A Small Dream In Red (Sundown Jazz) (RedZenRecordsTM) - 2005
red&blue (RedZenRecordsTM) – 1998

JORGE SYLVESTER

Alto Saxophonist, Composer, Conductor, Arranger, Bandleader, Producer,
Educator
<http://www.jorgesylvesteracemusic.com>

Born in Colon, Panama Jorge attended the Panama Conservatory of Music and the University of Panama. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music from the State University of New York College at New Paltz in 1981. A unique innovator and impressive composer and arranger in the idiom of creative music, his sound is reminiscent of Eric Dolphy and Ornette Coleman. Jorge has remained on the cutting edge of the creative NY Jazz scene since his arrival from Spain in 1980. Sylvester's blend of Afro-Caribbean rhythms with new music is what gives him his distinguished voice.

EARLY LIFE: Beginning his professional career at age 14, Jorge was leading his own Caribbean dance band, writing his own arrangements and compositions. He

studied privately with renowned Panamanian jazz saxophonist, Euclides Hall. Upon the recommendation of his professor, Efrain Castro, Jorge became a regular musician in the great Panamanian pianist Victor Boa's band. Heading for Europe in his early twenties, Sylvester spent ten years touring and recording with his ensembles and freelancing throughout Europe.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES: Mr. Sylvester studied advanced harmony with Argentinean pianist, composer Luis Vecchio in Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, Spain whose Quartet he also then recorded with. Upon his arrival to New York in 1980, he studied with Dave Holland, Oliver Lake, Steve Lacy, Ramsey Ameen, Marion Brown and many others at vibraphonist Karl Berger's Creative Music Studio in Woodstock.

TOURS/RESIDENCIES/NOTABLE CONCERTS: Europe with Joe Bowie's Defunkt Big Band; Europe and Israel with the World Saxophone Quartet; Danilo Perez's Panamanian Jazz All Stars for the Panama Jazz Festival; Podgorica, Montenegro Jazz Appreciation Month Series with A Small Dream in Red and appeared on the television show, Good Morning Montenegro; concert and recording in Linz, Austria at the Brucknerhaus Concert Hall with the ACE Collective; Vision Festival X, NYC with ConceptualMotion Orchestra; the Baha'i Center, Dizzy Gillespie Theater, NYC yearly residency from 2010 to present with CMO; and, monthly residency (both performances and workshops) at the El Taller Latino Americano Arts Center, NYC with CMO featuring guest artists since 2018. Jorge Sylvester ACE Collective has performed several concerts recently at Clements Place, a jazz venue in association with Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies in Newark, NJ.

COMPOSER, ARRANGER, CONDUCTOR: Mr. Sylvester composes, arranges, and conducts new music for his various groups and his expansive projects; performs frequently, teaches privately, and for New York Edge and after-school program, and conducts workshops throughout New York and elsewhere in the United States teaching his unique approach to composition using Afro-Caribbean rhythms.

DISCOGRAPHY

Mayhem at Large (RedZen Records, 2021);
blesSINGS (RedZen Records, 2016);
In the Language of Dreams (RedZen Records, 2013);
Spirit Driven (RedZen Records 2010 rel. 2013);
Toward the Hill of Joy Featuring Nora McCarthy (Blue Unity Music, 2011);
Playground (Jazzaway Records, 2005);
A Small Dream in Red (Sundown Jazz Records, CSU, 2003);
The Mass (Palmetto Records, 2000);

(Discography cont'd)

**Another Side (CIMP Records, 2000);
Magic Night (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1989);
Viriato Blue (Jazz Stop Records, Madrid Spain, 1983.);
The Blue Oneness of Dreams (Mouth Almighty Records, 1997) with
Poet Sekou Sundiata;
The Essence All Stars featuring Doug Carne, Idris Muhammed and Josh Roseman
(Hip Hop Records, 1997)**

ANDREW GREEN ([www. verdantsongs.com](http://www.verdantsongs.com))

Andrew Green is a guitarist, author, and arranger residing in New York City. A professional musician since the age of 15, he has played with Donald Byrd, Billy Hart, Joanne Brackeen, Marion Cowings, Mat Maneri, John McNeil, Winard Harper, Chip Jackson, Matt Wilson, Danny Mixon, Ralph LaLama, and Sound Assembly among others. He is the author of three popular jazz guitar books: *Jazz Guitar Comping*, *Jazz Guitar Technique* and *Jazz Guitar Structures*, all of which are available through Mel Bey Publications.

His ambitious project DIME DANCING: The Music of Steely Dan, is a reimagining of eight classic songs from the iconic 70's group for ensembles of mostly woodwinds and strings. Andrew's arranging chops are also demonstrated on his highly acclaimed CD, *Narrow Margin*, which features Bill McHenry, Russ Johnson, JC Sanford and John Hebert—chosen a top 10 CD by *Cadence Magazine* reviewer's poll. Andrew's release with the cooperative group, The Notet, *silent d*, is available on Shifting Paradigm Records.

Andrew has been a faculty member at Jazz in July at UMass and The Mile High Jazz Camp at The University of Colorado and has presented clinics across the US and Canada. Through Skype, Andrew has taught students across the US, as well as China, India, and Turkey.

GENE TORRES

Life-long Renowned Electric Bass Guitar, Composer, Arranger, Digital Audio Editing, Music Copyist, Sound Designer, Gene is a most sought-after versatile bassist adept on the six-string electric bass & pedals. He has performed with a

wide variety of artists across genres showcasing his versatility in the Jazz, Rock, Funk, Brazilian, Soul, Salsa, R&B and Afro-Haitian genres, including legends like:

- Darlene Love (Rock & Roll Hall of Famer)
- Ben E. King, Al Hibbler (Legends)
- Public Enemy, The Chambers Brothers, The Weather Girls (Funk/Hip-Hop/Soul)
- Chick Corea, (Jazz)
- Yousef Lateef, Ted Curson, Danny Mixon, Nat Adderley Jr. (Jazz)
- Jonathan Butler, Jennifer Holliday, Ty Stephens, Bobby Harden (R&B/Soul/Gospel)
- Southside Johnny, Mark Pender (E Street Band connection)
- Ernie Marcelin (Taboo Combo), La Bamba and the Hubcaps, Pee Wee Ellis(World/Funk/Jazz)

KENNY GROHOWSKI (www.kennygrohowski.com)

Brought up in a musical household in Miami, the 29-year-old drummer has been performing since the age of 14. His rich musical background is demonstrated through the growing list of his collaborators and guest artists, including Vernon Reid, Corey Unger (of Blood Has Been Shed), Emeline Michel, Peter Cincotti, Jorge Sylvester, Bobby Sanabria, Bill T. Jones, Rory Stuart, Cassandra Wilson, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Giovanni Hidalgo, John Benitez, Francis Mbappe, Domingo Quinones, and Bobby Valentin.

Grohowski has been a member of bassist Lonnie Plaxico's band since 2003, and a member of Andy Milne's Dapp Theory since 2006, having come back from a successful US/Canada tour with Dapp Theory, with Highlight shows in Vancouver opening for Jazz and Bass legend, Stanley Clarke, and performed in the 2007 Latin Grammy Awards Live from Madison Square Garden with the award winning group RBD. He has appeared on several recordings, including Plaxico's hit "So Alive" [Sony, Japan]. As of 2009, Grohowski has become a new member of acclaimed Haitian singer/cultural figure Emeline Michel's Acoustic Quintet, and has also performed at the Museum of Modern Art with the Ze Luis Quartet as part of their Live Art performances. Grohowski has also toured across the United States, South America, and Europe, as well as in Australia and China with New Classical Composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (a.k.a. DBR). Kenny has also performed regularly with acclaimed bassist Felix Pastorius and his group since

2010, performing regularly at such New York City venues as Zinc Bar and The 55 Bar.

Recently, Grohowski has written and recorded for Grammy Award winning Producer and Arranger Victor “Papo” Ortiz on the album “Eres Santo”.