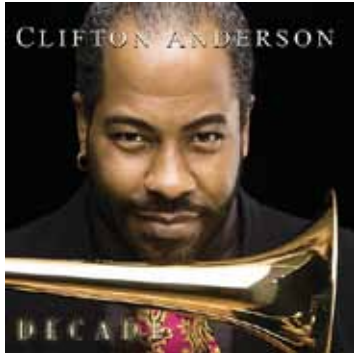


Clifton Anderson

Reviews



Clifton Anderson - "Decade"

"Anderson himself is positively inspired, playing ultimately clean, brash, sophisticated lines of melody that are simple, thoughtful, and profound. *Decade* is one the better trombone-led jazz entries in the 2000s."

- Michael G. Nastos, *Allmusic.com*

"Anderson's got a very well developed sound here - one that should easily make him one of the modern greats on his instrument, and one of the few to live up to a legacy started by players like JJ Johnson or Curtis Fuller many years back - tightly inventive improvisation on the trombone, creatively searching for new avenues of expression while also managing to always make things swing!"

- Dusty Groove America, Inc.

"This one's an absolute joy. Anderson has a gorgeous warm chestnut tone. and he's adept both at gentle ballads or supercharged boppers. A truly great mainstream hard bop delight."

- George W. Harris, *Jazz Weekly*

"The trombonist has just released *Decade*, his second album as a leader in more than a decade, and the result is impressive. Anderson shines as a stylist and a storyteller, and clearly he has done his listening. You hear history in Anderson's playing, but you also hear a 1970's groove. Anderson's compositions are all strong and fresh, and they avoid being derivative. Best of all, they are tailor made to show off the trombonist's lyricism and powerful chops."

- Marc Myers, *Jazz Wax/All About Jazz*

"Trombonist Clifton Anderson (Rollins's nephew) was the most consistently interesting player, developing minimal motifs into imaginatively worked-out solos that never fail to surprise."

- Stephen Brookes, *WashingtonPost.com*

Nominated 2009 Trombonist Of The Year
by The American Jazz Journalists Association.



Clifton Anderson

Bio



Clifton Anderson was born on October 5, 1957 in Harlem, New York City. He grew up surrounded by music. His father was a church organist /choir director, and his mother a singer and pianist. It was no surprise that Clifton exhibited an affinity for music at an early age. When he was just seven years old he got his first trombone, a gift from his uncle Sonny Rollins.

Clifton attended the prestigious Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. In 1974 he spent one year at The State University of New York at Stony Brook studying under Simon Karasick and Dave Schechter. He continued his education at The Manhattan School of Music, and graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Music degree. At The Manhattan School, he studied under the Metropolitan Opera trombonist John Clark. There he also met and befriended talented musicians like Angela Bofill and the late Kenny Kirkland.

While at Manhattan School of Music, Clifton began freelancing around New York City and made his first record date with Carlos Garnett in 1976. By his senior year at Manhattan he had established himself as one of the young “in demand” trombonists in New York. It was around that time that Slide Hampton formed the original “World of Trombones”, the group that would become the standard by which all jazz trombone choirs are measured. The group included Janice Robinson, Steve Turre, Earl McIntyre, Clifford Adams, Doug Purviance, Papo Vazquez, and Clifton Anderson along with appearances from the great Curtis Fuller, Britt Woodman and Benny Powell. Later additions to the prestigious trombone choir included Robin Eubanks, Clarence Banks, Frank Lacy, Conrad Herwig, and Bob Trowers.

Clifton’s career reflects work with a “who’s who” of diverse musical giants from: *Frank Foster, McCoy Tyner, Clifford Jordan, Stevie Wonder, Dizzy Gillespie, Merv Griffin* and *The Mighty Sparrow* to *Lester Bowie, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Paul Simon, Terumasa Hino, Muhal Richard Abrams, WyClef Jean, Geri Allen, Charlie Haden, Slide Hampton* and *Wallace Roney* among others. Clifton’s credits also include work on the Broadway shows *Dreamgirls* and *Nine*.

Clifton Anderson

Bio

Clifton joined Sonny Rollins' group in 1983 and was a featured soloist, touring worldwide and recording ten releases with him until 2009. During that tenure, in 1997 Clifton released his first recording as a leader/producer on the Milestone label entitled Landmarks. Landmarks received critical acclaim internationally and made the top ten play lists on US Jazz radio coast to coast. From 1999 to 2001 Clifton returned to academia as an "Artist In Residence" at Duke University. There he taught trombone, conducted trombone choir, sectional workshops and coached the Jazz Band.

Clifton has produced four releases for Sonny Rollins' label Doxy Records: Sonny, Please, the DVD Sonny Rollins in Vienne, Road Shows Vol. 1, and Clifton's own Decade. Clifton received a nomination for 2009 "Trombonist Of The Year" from The American Jazz Journalists Association and Decade and Clifton's live performances have continued to receive stellar reviews. In 2009 with the release of the critically acclaimed Decade, Clifton decided to leave Sonny's group to lead his own band full time. Clifton is currently working on his next recording project to be released in the fall of 2011.



Workshop and Clinic Presentations

Introduction to the Artist: Clifton Anderson presents insights based on 30 year of experience as a performing and recording artist: 25 years as a sideman with Sonny Rollins, to a wide variety of work with artists ranging from Paul Simon and The Mighty Sparrow to McCoy Tyner and Stevie Wonder. His appearances on television, radio and on Broadway, as well as over 15 years as a leader and producer add to his cachet.

1. Understanding The Changing Face Of The Jazz Industry

- A. **The “Professional Playing Field”:** An objective, interactive discussion about the world of the professional Jazz musician and what to expect. Flexibility; the various options for Jazz musicians; performer, producer, composer, arranger, etc. Understanding the requirements of a sideman/sidewoman and a bandleader.
- B. **The “Musical Landscape”:** Discovering your own musical “personality”, finding your “niche”, honing your craft, working on your strengths and weaknesses. How to position yourself and prepare for the marketplace.
- C. **The Power of the Digital age:** Gives the advantage now to the independent artist. Digital delivery of music, viral marketing techniques, social network platforms, twitter, etc... The ability now to take your music previously from a local awareness to a global awareness, reaching many people without the necessity of a record label. How to use a record label in today’s digital marketplace.

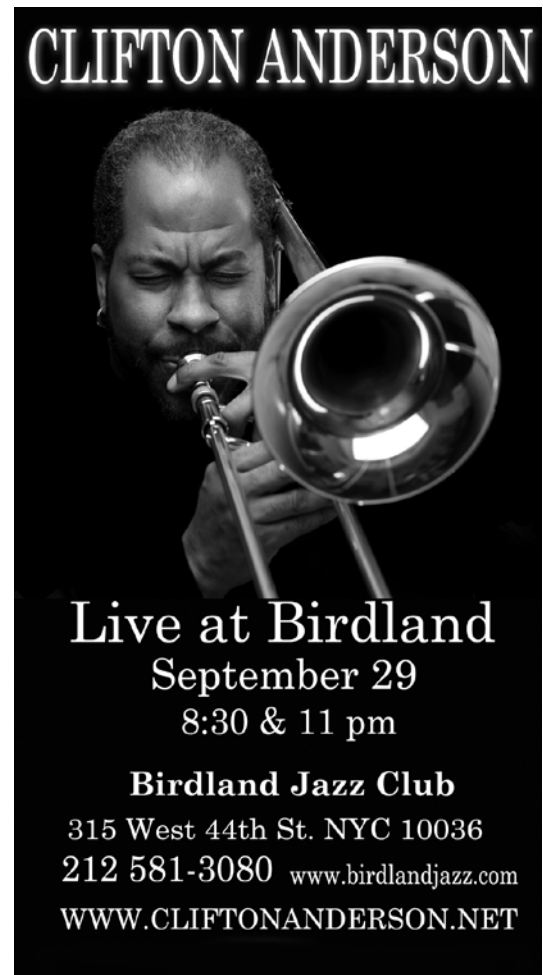
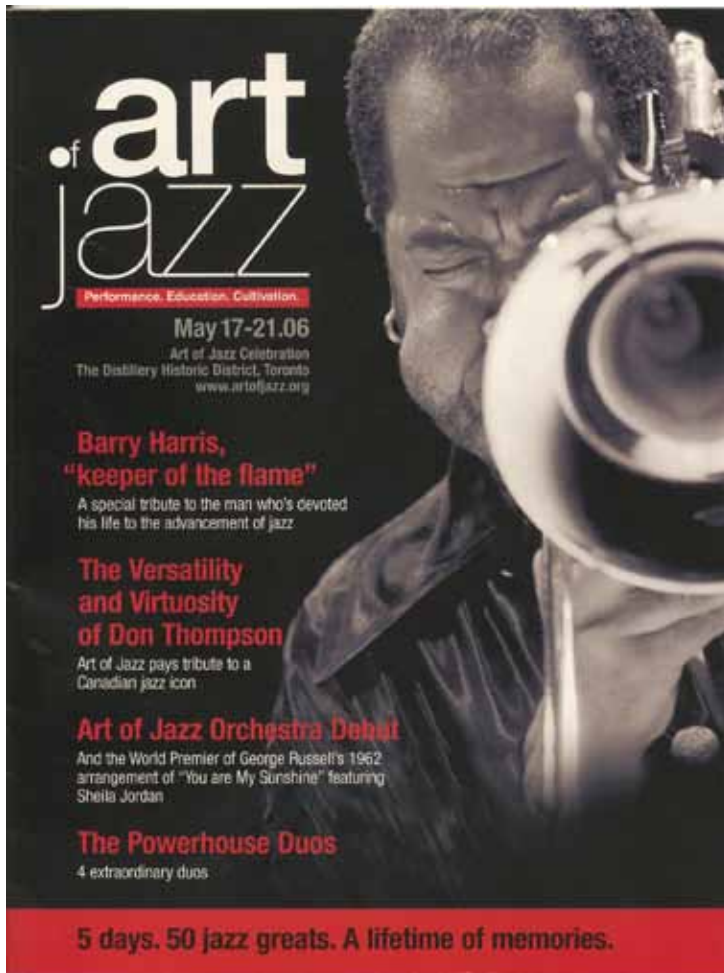
2. J.J. Johnson and The Evolution Of The Modern Jazz Trombone

- A. **The history of J.J. Johnson:** A brief introduction to trombonist J. J. Johnson and the impact of his music and style.
- B. **Tracing J.J. Johnson’s lineage through modern trombonists:** A presentation of various recordings and visual examples. A discussion and comparison of J.J. Johnson’s music to modern trombonist’s, the commonalities, playing styles and musical vocabulary. Examples include the music of Curtis Fuller, Slide Hampton and more recently Steve Turre, Clifton Anderson etc.

Clifton Anderson

3. Performance Clinics

- A. Discussion of trombone concepts and mechanics.
- B. Demonstration and modeling of sound, slide and articulation technique: student participation.
- C. Open workshop with Jazz improvisation, new works and arrangements.
- D. Coaching: soloists, small group ensembles, trombone choir and big band sections.



Clifton Anderson



Performance Review (excerpts)

Clifton Anderson Quintet

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola

February 2, 2009

Personnel: Clifton Anderson, trombone; Eric Wyatt, tenor saxophone; Stephen Scott, piano; Russel Blake, bass; Steve Williams, drums

This special Monday night performance at Dizzy's was to celebrate the release of his second album as a leader, called *Decade*, over ten years after his first release. Well good things are worth waiting for, and if the playing and the feeling is the same on the album as in this performance, listeners will not be disappointed. This was not only a group that enjoyed playing together, but an assemblage of outstanding individual musicians. Both aspects were noticeable during the first set of the evening.

Mr. Anderson's playing and writing impressed as being both within the tradition of hard bop and yet possessing his own approach and sound. The solos were passed around the group as the audience's heads bobbed and fingers tapped with the groove.

Back in the 1940's, 50's and even 60's, a generation of young jazz musicians were creating a new music. Most agree that since that time the music has primarily evolved within the form originally created by Gillespie and Parker. The most accomplished jazz artists since then have taken time to develop their own voice, their own approach and their own interpretation of the music. Clifton Anderson is a case in point and he clearly demonstrates the maturation of one artist's unique voice crafted over multiple decades of playing experience.

In the end the quintet displayed the capacity and voice of Mr. Anderson's new compositions as well as their cohesiveness as a group, leading to a most enjoyable evening for all. It was evident this evening that this approach has served him well as he has crafted his sound into one which both his peers and audiences clearly appreciate.

Al Bunshaft / Jazz Improv Magazine – March 2009

Clifton Anderson

Press Photos



Clifton Anderson Quintet Eagle Hill Performing Arts Center October 29, 2010

Personnel: Clifton Anderson, trombone; Eric Wyatt, tenor sax; Benito Gonzalez, piano; Essiet Essiet, bass; Steve Williams, drums

"Clifton, you and the band played an amazing show – it is literally the talk of the town, and every single band member was warm, open, and incredibly generous as you all mingled with the patrons after the performance. This was way more than a concert, it was a real connection between people through music. Thanks for your beautiful music and for your very special presence here!"

**Sean Hunley/Artistic Director –
The Center At Eagle Hill - Hardwick, MA**

Clifton Anderson



Media Links

Live footage, Interview and Press quotes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0HkJazlhy0>

Clifton talks about his development with Sonny Rollins:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaIaHDkIDOs>

Interviews about the making of *Decade*:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APvKk__-6FI

Websites:

www.cliftonanderson.net

www.myspace.com/cliftonandersonjazz www.facebook.com/cliftone1