

# MARCUS STRICKLAND

## Quotes

"Strickland's own approach to music goes far beyond merely staying current - he is an innovator."  
- *Joe Montague, JazzReview.com*

"Marcus expertly stretches the outside of the envelope on every solo, and his sense of narrative never falls flat."  
- *J. Hunter, All About Jazz*

"Like Newk before him, Strickland has assembled a set of tunes with strong, direct melodies that inspire boundless reveries . . . Strikingly, the leader's own originals are just as memorable, and tailor-made for his tightly attuned trio . . . Throughout the album, the trio maintains a sound both sparse and rich, with a relaxed ease that allows for experimentation but without the airiness ever feeling empty."  
- *Shaun Brady, DownBeat*

"Great knots of sound, breezy lines continuously unfurling - Strickland puts pressure on himself to carry the ball and he's been gaining a lot of yardage lately...want to hear how those qualities play out on the stand? Of course you do."  
- *Jim Macnie, The Village Voice*

"A streamlined acoustic trio date, steeped in jazz heritage even as it foregrounds inventive takes on tunes by OutKast, Oumou Sangare, Jaco Pastorius and others."  
- *David Adler, Time Out New York*

"This album, with Mr. Strickland distributing his intensity carefully over a subtle, flexible rhythm section, is of a whole other order...It's a record you can give to friends who aren't keeping score with jazz. That's good..."  
- *Ben Ratliff, The New York Times (on Idiosyncrasies)*

"Strickland has started to turn heads in the most thriving but most competitive jazz scene on the planet... his tone: liquid and luminous, yet forceful and exact... simply one of jazz's shining young saxophonists."  
- *Thomas Conrad, JazzTimes*

"One of the most creative and adventurous saxophonists on the NYC scene."  
- *JazzWise Magazine*

# MARCUS STRICKLAND



## Bio

The great Miles Davis once said, "The thing to judge in any jazz artist is, does the man project and does he have ideas?" If these are indeed the canonical essentials of a jazz artist at his best, then saxophonist Marcus Strickland is one of today's truest exemplars.

Triumph of the Heavy: Volume 1 & 2 is Strickland's fourth release from his independent Strick Muzik record label, and his seventh as a leader. The music lives up to its title, and Strickland's distinctive artistry is synonymous with its concept. With a professional career that has just passed the ten-year mark, Strickland's influential sound, distinguished body of work, impressive set of credentials and steady acknowledgement from every credible jazz critic since emerging on the scene has earned him a rightful place alongside the very best narrators of modern jazz.

Strickland's desire to preach above and beyond the jazz choir is rooted in his affinity toward a multitude of musical styles. Growing up in a household which encouraged the arts, Strickland's musical palette had been vast long before his professional endeavors. This broad creative range, along with his emergence as a singular voice on his instrument, helped Strickland land his first recording deal as a leader with the Fresh Sound label, soon after the Miami native graduated from New York's esteemed New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music; a breeding ground for many who would become today's most relevant figures in jazz.

Strickland has a covetable list of recording and performing credits, having collaborated with Wynton Marsalis, Tom Harrell, and Dave Douglas, but Strickland's longest and most impressive working relationships include two of the most influential drummers ever to play the instrument: Roy Haynes and Jeff "Tain" Watts. Strickland was still attending college when jazz master Roy Haynes asked him to join his Fountain of Youth band. Strickland held the tenor spot for five years before joining Watts; a drummer who is without question at least in-part responsible for ushering in this generation of successors.

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## Bio cont.

As a bandleader, Strickland unsurprisingly takes cues from yet another drummer. "There's a quote from Art Blakey that just says, 'Leave the band alone,' Strickland emphasizes, through an abundance of hearty laughter. "He's referring to his leading style. You know, don't tell them how to play! And it's very important. I want everybody to feel good. I want the band especially to feel good so the music can feel good, and the audience can feel good. I want there to be room for a party. So I write like that, I lead like that."

Strickland's critics are listening, too. Over the last five years, Strickland has held some of the most prestigious positions in the realm of jazz journalism: Rising Star on Soprano Saxophone in Downbeat's 2012 Critic's Poll Rising Star on Tenor Saxophone in Downbeat's 2010 Critic's Poll, Rising Star on Soprano Saxophone in Downbeat's 2008 Critic's Poll and Best New Artist in JazzTimes' 2006 Reader's Poll. For Strickland, the blueprint for triumph is based on one main principle, "As long as you're honest, I think nobody can mess with that. I think that's essential to being an artist... to be yourself. Really expose what's inside of you, try to put that out there in a very creative and beautiful way that people can enjoy. My whole goal is to make enjoyable music with great depth, and touch as many people as I can with it. That's all I want to do."



**MGP**

McKenna Group Productions, LLC

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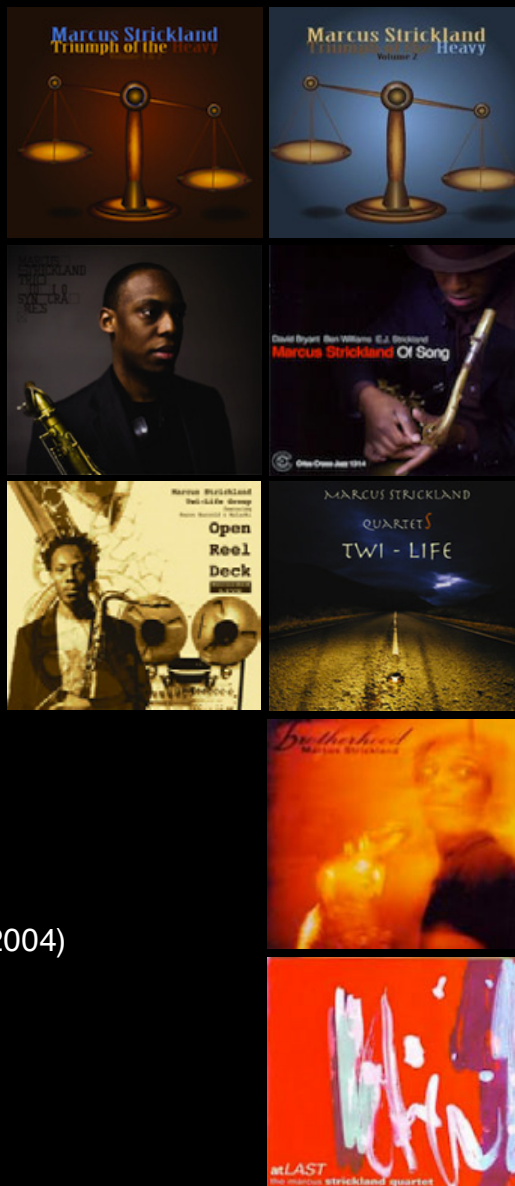
## Discography

### As a Leader:

Triumph of the Heavy, Vol. 2 (2011) Strick Muzik  
Triumph of the Heavy, Vol.1 (2011) Strick Muzik  
Idiosyncrasies (2009), Strick Muzik  
Of Song (2009), Criss Cross  
Open Reel Deck (2007), Strick Muzik  
Twi-Life (2006), Strick Muzik  
Brotherhood (2003), Fresh Sound  
At Last (2001), Fresh Sound

### As a Side Man:

Roy Haynes, Roy-Alty, (2011)  
Ben Williams, State of Art, (2010)  
Dave Douglas Keystone, Spark of Being, (2010)  
E.J. Strickland, In This Day, (2009)  
Roy Haynes, A Life in Time, (2008)  
Dave Douglas Keystone, Live at Jazz Standard, (2008)  
Mike Moreno, Between the Lines, (2007)  
Jeff Tain Watts, Folk Songs, (2007)  
Jimmy Greene, Gifts and Givers, (2007)  
Lonnie Plaxico, Live at Zinc Bar, (2007)  
Dave Douglas Keystone, Moonshine, (2007)  
Dave Douglas Keystone, Live in Sweden, (2006)  
Dave Douglas Keystone, Keystone, (2005)  
Ali Shaheed Muhammad, Shaheedullah and Stereotypes, (2004)  
Roy Haynes, Fountain of Youth, (2004)  
Jeff Tain Watts, Detained, (2004)  
Lonnie Plaxico, Live at Jazz Standard, (2004)  
Lonnie Plaxico, Live at the 5:01 Jazz Bar, (2002)  
Bilal, 1st Born Second, (2001)  
Lonnie Plaxico, Melange, (2001)



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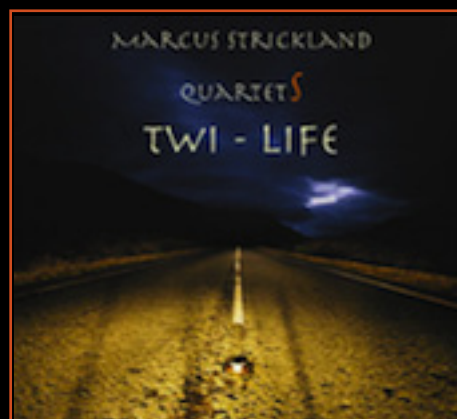
## Twi-Life

DownBeat Critic's Poll winner Marcus Strickland has steadily proven to be an essential part of the jazz continuum since he stepped on the scene in the early 2000s. He will present his Twi-Life group at The 2013 NYC Winter JazzFest; a highly anticipated annual event which showcases over seventy new and established groups in tandem with the Arts Presenters (APAP) conference.

Twi-Life, an electric band with its inception rooted in the soul music Strickland grew up listening to, is a testament to his irrepressible versatility. "It seems, so far, that every Twi-Life band will be significantly different than the next because it is my refuge for trying out my wildest ideas," says Strickland, who is emerging as one of the most multi-faceted and prolific writers and performers of his generation.

His genre-bending propensity has produced fascinating and unconventional collaborations and this time around is no different; the members of this eclectic ensemble have worked individually with artists like Kanye West, Bilal and Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. The group includes the wide-ranging talents of hip-hop lyricist, DJ and Berklee professor, Raydar Ellis; legendary trombonist, Frank Lacy; dexterous keyboardist Yuki Hironao; The Roots' newest member, bassist Mark Kelley; dynamic drummer Charles Haynes; and special guest, singer-songwriter Jean Baylor, formally of the hit-making 90s R&B duo, Zhané.

Strickland's development as a producer is the nexus of this project whose music comes mostly from taking his beats and applying acoustic instrumentation and improvisation. "Once you combine the many textures, layers and number crunching of [drum] programming with human spontaneity, the possibilities are infinite and it becomes yet another instrument for human invention."



# MARCUS STRICKLAND

## Workshops/Clinics/Masterclasses

Performance Masterclass  
Thailand International Jazz Conference  
Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Performance Masterclass  
Cafe De Kroeg  
Arnhem, NH

Performance/ Music Business Clinic  
Long Island University  
Brooklyn, NY

Performance Masterclass  
Langnau Jazz Nights  
Langnau, Switzerland

Saxophone Masterclass  
Langnau Jazz Nights  
Langnau, Switzerland

Private Lessons  
Langnau Jazz Nights  
Langnau, Switzerland

Performance Masterclass  
Berklee School of Music  
Boston, MA

Performance Masterclass  
Kultural Center  
Kyviv, Ukraine

Performance Masterclass  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

Performance Masterclass  
Peabody Institute Conservatory of Music  
Baltimore, MD

Private Lessons  
The New School Jazz & Contemporary Music  
New York, NY

For listing of masterclasses w JazzReach visit:  
<http://www.jazzreach.org/itinerary/>



### Education

The New School Jazz & Contemporary Music  
New World School of the Arts

### Private Study

Whit Sidener (Harmony, Saxophone)  
George Garzone (Harmony, Saxophone)  
Branford Marsalis (Saxophone)  
Patience Higgins (Woodwinds)  
David Glassier (Saxophone)

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## Musicians Performed With:

Jeff Tain Watts, Al Foster, Dave Douglas,  
Christian McBride, Mos Def, Will Calhoun,  
Ben Wolfe, Orrin Evans, EJ Strickland,  
Ben Williams, Nicholas Payton, Lonnie Plaxico,  
Ambrose Akinmusire, Miguel Atwood-Ferguson,  
Tom Guarna, David Bressat

## Festivals:

(International)

Brazil Jazz Festival (Brazil)  
Ecuador Jazz Festival (Ecuador)  
Festi Jazz International de Rimouski (Canada)  
Festival de Jazz de Teruel (Spain)  
Jazz Baltica Salzau (Germany)  
Jazz Festival Willisau (Switzerland)  
Langnau Jazz Nights (Switzerland)  
London Jazz Festival (UK)  
North Sea Jazz Festival (Netherlands)  
November Jazz Festival (Netherlands)  
Pori Jazz Festival (Finland)  
Tourcoing Jazz Festival (France)

(Domestic)

Chicago Jazz Festival (IL)  
Detroit Jazz Festival (MI)  
Exit 0 Jazz Festival (MD)  
Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival (NY)  
Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival (NJ)  
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (LA)  
Newport Jazz Festival (RI)  
Northampton Jazz Festival (MA)  
Playboy Jazz Festival (CA)  
Rochester Jazz Festival (NY)  
Tri-C Jazz Festival (OH)  
Winter's Eve Festival (NY)



## International Venues:

Porgy & Bess (Austria)  
De Casino (Belgium)  
Semilasso (Czech Republic)  
Montmartre (Denmark)  
Duc des Lombards (France)  
Jazzkeller (Germany)  
Teatro S. Martino (Italy)  
Blue Note (Japan)  
Abbaye de Neumunster (Luxembourg)  
Bimhui (Netherlands)  
Casa da Musica (Portugal)  
Philharmonic Hall (Siberia)  
Nu Spirit (Slovakia)  
Fasching (Sweden)  
Moods (Switzerland)  
Nakhon Pathom (Thailand)  
Charlie Wright's (United Kingdom)

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## Additional Press Photos



## Media Links

### Website:

<http://www.marcusstrickland.com/>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=x5GQhT5C1ak#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=x5GQhT5C1ak#!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV5UPJ9FMHU>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=V2zg\\_IDqOoU#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=V2zg_IDqOoU#!)

### Twl-Life:

<http://www.marcusstrickland.com/twi-life/videos.html>

### Management:

<http://mckennagroupproductions.com/#/artist/marcus-strickland/>