

BRANDON ROSS

Brandon Ross is a guitarist / composer / singer / songwriter, who has worked/recorded with Cassandra Wilson, Henry Threadgill, Jewel, Tony Williams, Arto Lindsay, The Lounge Lizards, Leroy Jenkins, Butch Morris, Bill Frisell, Me'Shell N'degeocello, Moreno Veloso, Arrested Development, Craig Harris, Archie Shepp, Fred Hopkins, Joan Osborne, Muhal Richard Abrams, Deidre Murray, Mino Cinelu, Don Byron, Bobby Previte, Timothy Hill, Myra Melford, Ron Miles, Oliver Lake, Sekou Sundiata, Bill Laswell, Zeena Parkins, Michelle Branch, Wadada Leo Smith, and many others, crafting a personal approach to (jazz) guitar, and improvisation, that has taken him all over the world.



He co-leads the avant power trio, Harriet Tubman, with bassist Melvin Gibbs, and drummer JT Lewis. "Tubman" is dedicated to musical revelation/investigation in a pan-African vernacular of Now. In Harriet Tubman, Ross explores electronics, and pan-tonality to sculpt a multidimensional, interactive, sonic language in a "classic" R&B/Rock configuration of guitar, bass, and drums. Harriet Tubman has released 2 cds, "I Am A Man" on Knitting Factory Records, and "Prototype" (live) on John Zorn's Avant Records label. A new CD of the Harriet Tubman "Dub-ill 3rio" LIVE featuring Ron Miles/DJ Logic/DJ Singe will be released in Fall '07 on Jazz Away Records, out of Norway.

"... Melvin Gibbs also appeared with Harriet Tubman, AN OUTSTANDING POWER TRIO featuring drummer J.T. Lewis and the remarkably creative but unsung guitar hero Brandon Ross, who combines the linear facility and originality of Joyous Lake-era Pat Martino with the sheer decibels and cathartic abandon of Sharrock and the liquid whammy-bar articulations of Allan Holdsworth. Ross unleashed fuzz-inflected, wah-fueled licks and testified with overdriven bluetones during this searing set, which concluded with a frantic jam that reached a Bad Brains level of intensity." - Bill Milkowski, Jazz Times June '07

In his acoustic based quartet, Blazing Beauty, Ross plays banjo, electric, acoustic and soprano guitars; uses cornet, acoustic bass guitar, and drumset to extend his expressive field into "folk" oriented musics and compositional approaches that communicate his dedication to fresh musical experience. His first recording of some of this work, "Costume", was released in 2005, on Intoxicate Records (Japan), to rave reviews, and several critic's "best of the year" lists.

Ross also composes music for his acoustic string duo, "For Living Lovers", with acoustic bass guitarist, Stomu Takeishi. The duo plans to tour in 2008, and record it's first release, in the Fall of '07.

During the Summer of '07 he has been doing a series of duets with bassist/vocalist Me'Shell N'degeocello @ Brooklyn's, ROSE Live Music, in Williamsburg.

Ross has scored music for the surviving reel of a 1922 Chinese silent film called "Lotus Blossom", commissioned by the New York Guitar Festival, 2006, and has arranged and performed interpretations of the music of Reverend Gary Davis, and Mississippi John Hurt for the NYGF (New York Guitar Festival) in 2004, and 2006. He is currently composing for his next release, having released his latest CD, "Puppet" on Intoxicate Records (December '06), and recorded interpretations of the film music of Toru Takemitsu, (with classical guitarist, Daisuke Suzuki, and bass guitarist Stomu Takeishi), which was released in Japan in September '06 on Intoxicate Records. (Oh, and he loves a glass of a fine vintage, listening to great music, while engaged in expansive conversation... especially in Italy.)

STOMU TAKEISHI

Stomu Takeishi has played electric fret-less bass in a variety of jazz settings throughout the '90s and 2000s. A member of Myra Melford's Crush Trio (with drummer Kenny Wollesen), and Erik Friedlander's Topaz (with brother Satoshi Takeishi on percussion), Stomu Takeishi has also played in trumpeter Cuong Vu's group Vu-Tet, and in the North Indian-influenced Alankar. Takeishi performs on Satoko Fujii's album, South Wind, and has played with such musicians as Henry Threadgill, Don Cherry, Randy Brecker, and Wynton Marsalis. Takeishi has toured internationally with these various groups, from N.Y.C. to Finland's Tampere Festival. ~ Joslyn Layne, All Music Guide



Stomu Takeishi (b. Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, 1964) is a Japanese jazz bass player. He generally plays fretless five-string electric bass guitar, as well as a Klein five-string acoustic bass guitar. He often uses looping or other electronic techniques to enhance the sound of his instrument.

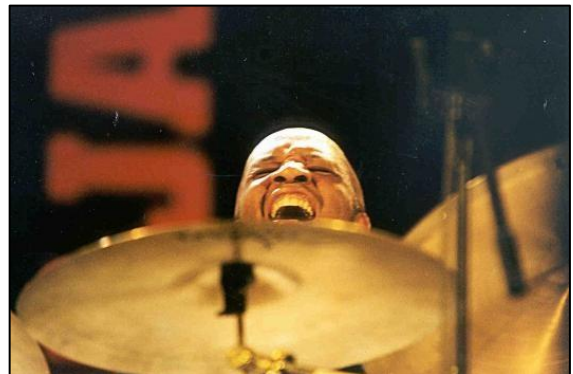
Takeishi began as a koto player. He came to the United States in 1983 to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. After completing his degree in 1986, he moved to Manhattan to continue his studies at The New School. He has lived in New York City ever since.

In the 1990s he began to achieve prominence as an innovative New York jazz bass player, and critics have noted both his adventurous playing and sensitivity to sound and timbre. He has played in many international jazz festivals and often performs at major venues in New York, the United States, and Europe.

He has performed and/or recorded with Don Cherry, Henry Threadgill, Butch Morris, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Motian, Myra Melford, Cuong Vu, Badal Roy, David Tronzo, Erik Friedlander, Satoko Fujii, and Andy Laster.

J.T. LEWIS

J.T. Lewis began playing drums at the age of 10 and went on to study Jazz composition at City College of New York with John Lewis and Jaki Byard. J.T. also privately studied with Albert Tootie Heath and the late great Freddie Waits. In 1976, J.T. left New York City to tour With Bobbi Humphrey for two years and eventually he came back to New York and developed his career as one of the pre-eminent session/live artists in the city.



J.T. has played and recorded with a range of famous and noteworthy artists ...including: Ira Siegal, Kip Hanrahan, Omar Hakim, Danny Wilesky, Stanley Jordan, Curtis King, Skip McDonald, Henry Threadgill, Sting, Tina Turner, Lou Reed, Bill Laswell, Whitney Houston, Marc Anthony, Herbie Hancock, and Marianne Faithful. J.T. was the original drummer in Vernon Reed's Living Colour)...J.T.'s list of playing credits certainly speaks to his versatility as a musician and his love for all kinds of music.

He has been the drummer for Vanessa Williams for the past 11 yrs. He has also been collaborating with "downtown musicians" Mark Ribot and Roy Nathanson on various projects...one involving Elvis Costello and Debbie Harry.

J.T. is currently co- leader of the band Harriet Tubman with Melvin Gibbs on bass (Rollins band)...and Brandon Ross (Henry Threadgill) on guitar.

RON MILES

Denver trumpeter **Ron Miles'** has spent time with Bill Frisell, Don Byron, the Ellington Orchestra, and Fred Hess' Boulder Creative Music Ensemble. Besides being solicited all over the world for his unique sound, Miles is a staple of the Denver jazz scene and his recent releases as band leader show off his skills as a composer and arranger as well as a "phenomenally gifted trumpeter" (Bill Milkowski).

A resident of Denver since he was 11, he began playing the trumpet seriously in junior high school and studied music at the University of Denver (1981–1985) and the Manhattan School of Music (1986). Miles says that living in Denver has given him an appreciation for a broad array of musical styles that he might not have acquired elsewhere. "Country and Western music, Latin, jazz, and rock are all popular here, so you find yourself trying out a lot of ideas with other musicians and gaining a healthy respect for the music," he explains.

Miles was widely recognized as a musical director and arranger with the release of Ginger Baker's *Coward of the County* (Atlantic 1999). His compositions anchor that record and highlight the varied influences from which he draws inspiration. Hailed as an inventive composer and gifted trumpeter on his solo releases, Miles cruised through the 1990s with a series of well-received releases on Gramavision (*My Cruel Heart*, *Woman's Day*) and Capri (*Witness*, *Ron Miles Trio*).

In 2002 Miles slowed it down for a quiet, intimate recording with friend and master jazz guitarist Bill Frisell. *Heaven* again showcases his talent as an arranger, particularly on Hank Williams' "Your Cheatin' Heart" and Bob Dylan's "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" (which Miles heard for the first time in the sessions!) According to Bill Frisell, "What is so exciting about Ron is that he really has his own voice. It seems like everything that is going on right now is either very conservative or it rejects everything. has found a way to include everything and not reject things, and still be his own person." Miles said of his playing with Bill, "think we share a fondness for striking melody, patience and the importance of individual timbre."

This new release is a Double album. *Stone* and *Blossom* feature new songs by Miles, as well as outstanding recordings from some of Denver's finest musicians, including Madeleine Peyroux. *Blossom* also features a cover of "Woke Up In Love This Morning" by the Partridge Family, and "I'll Be There" by The Jackson Five.

