

Ted Nash Bio – 300 Words

Composer and multi-instrumentalist Ted Nash was born in Los Angeles into a musical family – his father Dick Nash and uncle Ted Nash are both well-known jazz and studio musicians. Nash first came to New York at the age of eighteen and soon after released his first album as a leader, *Conception* (Concord Jazz). During his first three years in New York he became a regular member of the Gerry Mulligan Big Band, the National Jazz Ensemble, and the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, the latter an association that would last for more than ten years.

It was in this fertile environment that Nash began to write his first arrangements. In 1994, Nash was commissioned by the Davos Musik Festival (Switzerland) to compose for a string quartet in a jazz setting. This commission was the inspiration for Nash's CD *Rhyme and Reason*, which was voted one of the top five CDs of 1999 by *Jazz Times Magazine*.

One of Nash's most important associations is with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. A recent commission by the JLCO, "Portrait in Seven Shades," was recorded by the Orchestra and released in February, 2010, followed by a month-long tour. This recording, a first-ever JLCO release devoted to original music by a band member other than Wynton Marsalis, has been credited by Ted Panken in *Downbeat Magazine* as marking a new direction for the Orchestra.

Nash's CDs have received many awards, including top ten CDs by *New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Boston Globe*, *New York Newsday*, *The New Yorker*, *Downbeat*, and *Jazz Times Magazine*. Nash has been cited as "rising star" on saxophone for several years in the *Downbeat Magazine* Critics Poll. Nash has also won three SESAC National Performance Activity Awards for the success of the CDs on the radio.