

## ORLANDO LE FLEMING

Among the most proficient and accomplished bassists in the field of contemporary jazz, Orlando le Fleming's virtuoso technique, boundless creativity and powerful beat are those of a musician who has found himself, humbly, occupying a space in the uppermost stratum of American improvised music.

Orlando's facility as an improviser and capacity as a team player were first honed not on the bandstand, nor in the practice room, but on the cricket pitch. Originally from the UK, Orlando seemed destined for an athletic career, and was briefly a professional cricketer, until he was granted a place at London's Royal Academy of music, and his lifelong passion for music won out.

Le Fleming's 2003 move to New York City was a timely one. Soon after arriving stateside, Orlando joined **Jane Monheit's** band, consequently sharing the bass duties on her 2004 release *Taking a Chance on Love* with Ron Carter and Christian McBride; the year following, he recorded with jazz legend **Jimmy Cobb** on his Marsalis Music Honors release. In the years since, leaders as diverse as **Branford Marsalis, Joey Calderazzo, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Bill Charlap, Billy Cobham, Ari Hoenig, Seamus Blake, Jeff "Tain" Watts** and **David Sanchez** have relied on Le Fleming's firm beat and eloquent counterpoint to propel their rhythm sections forward.

While he succeeds as a sideman, it is as a leader that Orlando le Fleming truly shines. From Brooklyn *With Love* is a living document of Orlando's original compositions, as performed by his 2010 quartet. Recorded in concert at storied Park Slope hangout Freddy's, it features saxophonist **Will Vinson**, guitarist **Lage Lund**, and drummer **Antonio Sanchez**. Riding the high acclaim of this initial release, Lund, Vinson, and Le Fleming would go on to form the drum-less **OWL Trio**, whose eponymous 2013 debut was hailed by critics and listeners alike. *Downbeat* declared "*Everything about this album, which should contend for debut of the year honors, is a resounding success. The music swings effortlessly, every utterance is gorgeous and the recording is intimate and beautiful.*"

More recently, Orlando has become recognized as a keen doubler: 2016 brought a wide array of opportunities as an electric bassist, from accompanying Tony-winning vocalist **Leslie Odom Jr.** to navigating the shifting metrics of **Wayne Krantz's** legendary 55 Bar residency. His latest endeavor, **Romantic Funk**, presents a pastiche of classic fusion sounds and ideas, updated by Le Fleming's signature palette of polyrhythm and abstract exploration. 2020 will see the release of Romantic Funk's second album - *The Unfamiliar*, and also a new OWL Trio record featuring grammy winning vocalist, **Kurt Elling**.

"Orlando is a brilliant musician and one of my most favorite bassists. He has so many dynamic and musical qualities, his sound is big and supportive, his lines are deep architecture, his solos are dances in shadows and light, his energy is warm, engaging and playful, and his technical skill is on the highest level." - **Kurt Rosenwinkel**

"Orlando has great ears, is a master of phrasing and note choice and knows exactly how to complement his musical surroundings; he's a pleasure to play with every time." - **Ari Hoenig**

"Orlando is easily one of the most skilled and thoughtful musicians that I have worked with." - **Jeff "Tain" Watts**

## **SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY**

As a leader:

### **Romantic Funk**

*The Unfamiliar* {2020 Whirlwind Recordings}

*Romantic Funk* {2017 OLF Records}

### **OWL Trio**

*Life of the Party* {2020 Newvelle}

*Arts and Letters* {2015 OWL}

*OWL Trio* {2013 Losen records}

### **Orlando le Fleming Quartet**

*From Brooklyn With Love* {2010 Nineteen-Eight}

As a sideman:

**Wayne Krantz**

*Write Out Your Head* {2020 Abstract Logix}

**Jeff "Tain" Watts**

*Travel Band* {2018 Dark Key Music}

*Wattify* {2016 Dark Key Music}

*Blue Vol. 1&2* {2018 Dark Key Music}

**Ari Hoenig**

*The Pauper and the Magician* {2016 Ari Hoenig}

*NY Standard* {2018 Fresh Sound}

*Lines of Oppression* {2011 Naive Records}

*Bert's Playground* {2008 Dreyfus}

**Joey Calderazzo**

*Live at the Cotton Club* {2018 Dot time}

*Going Home* {2015 Sunnyside}

*Live* {2013 Sunnyside}

**Lage Lund**

*Small Club, Big City* {2011 Lage Lund}

*Early Songs* {2008 Criss Cross}

*Standards* {2006 Lage Lund}

**Leslie Odom, Jr**

*Simply Christmas* {2016 S-Curve}

**Jimmy Cobb**

*Marsalis Music Honors* {2006 Marsalis Music}

**Billy Cobham**

*The Art of Five* {2003}

**Jane Monheit**

*Surrender* {2007 Concord}

*The Season* {2005 Epic}

*Taking a Chance on Love* {2004 Sony Classical}

**Will Vinson**

*Stockholm Syndrome* {2010 Criss Cross}

*The World Through My Shoes* {2010 Nineteen-Eight}

*Promises* {2008 Nineteen-Eight}

**Seamus Blake**

*Way Out Willy* {2007 Criss Cross}

**Jochen Rueckert**

*Charm Offensive* {2016 Pirouet}

**Iain Ballamy**

*More Jazz* {2007 Basho}

**Bryn Roberts**

*Fables* {2013 Nineteen-eight}

**Miki Yamanaka**

*Miki* {2018 Cellar Live}

**Tommy Smith**

*The Christmas Concert* {2001 Spartacus}

**Jason Rebello**

*Next Time Round* {1999 Onion}

**Tom Guarna**

*Rush* {2014 BJUR}

**Don Braden**

*The Fire Within* {1999 RCA Victor}

**Guy Barker**

*Soundtrack* {2001 Provocateur}

**Jean Toussaint**

*The Street Above The Underground* {2000 Alltone Records}

**Lorenz Kellhuber**

*Standard Experience* {2015 Blackbird}

**Jamie Reynolds**

*Grey Mirror* {2017 Fresh Sound}

**Gerard Presencer**

*The Optimist* {2001 Linn}