



Aaron Goldberg

Aaron Goldberg is a pianist and composer performing at the vanguard of jazz music. His trio in Thailand comprises two of the premier voices of his generation, bassist Omer Avital and drummer Gregory Hutchinson. Recently Aaron released his Sunnyside Records debut album, "Worlds", and will follow it up in 2010 with "Home".

Both albums exhibit the sensitivity and dynamism of his trio joined by very special guests. In addition to heading the trio, Aaron has spent the last 10 years touring with many of the most brilliant voices in jazz--Joshua Redman, Wynton Marsalis, Betty Carter, Nicholas Payton, Al Foster, Stefon Harris, Kurt Rosenwinkel and Madeleine Peyroux among others.

Aaron was born in Boston and got hooked on jazz in high school by Bob Sinicrope of Milton Academy and saxophonist Jerry Bergonzi, two master educators. In his own words: "At first improvisation was a mystery and a puzzle, but soon it became a profound inner and outer journey as life and music entwined." After receiving awards from Berklee College of Music and DownBeat, Aaron left at age 17 for NYC. At the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in 1991 he had his first taste of jazz in the big city, and at school he met many of his current contemporaries and friends, including Omer Avital, Brad Mehldau, Roy Hargrove, Ali Jackson and others.

In 1992 he returned to Boston and enrolled at Harvard College. While at Harvard, Aaron worked with a wide variety of artists from nearby Berklee and beyond, and won the International Association of Jazz Educators' prestigious Clifford Brown/Stan Getz Fellowship award as well as first place in National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search in 1993. Soon he was discovered by vocalist and first lady of jazz Betty Carter and was a founding member of her historic Jazz Ahead program. He continued to perform at clubs around both New York and Boston, often commuting in the wee hours, and it was not long before he met both Rogers and Harland. Aaron graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1996 with a degree in History and Science and a concentration in Mind, Brain and Behavior. On the weekends he held a long-time residence at Wally's Cafe in Boston, and the fall after graduation he moved to Brooklyn.

Aaron wasted no time in the Big Apple. He quickly established himself as a stellar sideman, performing with an array of leaders including Tom Harrell, Freddie Hubbard, Mark Turner, Greg Tardy and many others. In 1998 he joined the band of Joshua Redman, with whom he toured for 4 years and recorded two albums (Beyond, 2001 and Passage of Time, 2002). In addition to leading his telepathic trio, more recently Aaron has toured and recorded with guitar guru Kurt Rosenwinkel, vocalist Madeleine Peyroux, drummers Al Foster and Carl Allen, and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis in his quartet as well as with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Aaron's long (over 50 albums) and impressive list of recorded credits includes work with a diverse spectrum of artists ranging from Guillermo Klein to Terry Gibbs/Buddy DeFranco, as well as many fellow leaders of the next generation such as saxophonists Mark Turner, John Ellis, Jimmy Greene, and Eli Degibri. In 2004 and 2008, Aaron produced and performed in Jazz for America's Future and Jazz for Obama, fundraising concerts for Sen. John Kerry and President Barack Obama respectively. He is currently the musical director of All Souls at Sundown, a jazz and poetry series at Manhattan's All Souls Church, and a member of the instrumental faculty at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. Aaron's first recording as a leader, Turning Point, was released on the J Curve imprint in 1999, followed by Unfolding in 2002. Aaron is also a member of the OAM Trio, which recorded Trilingual (1999) and Flow (2002) for the Fresh Sound/New Talent label, as well as two collaborations with saxophonist Mark Turner: the upcoming Now and Here (2009) on Karonte and the acclaimed Live in Sevilla (2003) on Lola Records.

On his latest album, Worlds, Aaron has adopted the global and made it personal. With an eye always tuned to his sociopolitical environment, he hopes his trio will have an increasing impact not limited to the jazz world. "Jazz, a language like any other, is open to Creole forms – indeed like America it was born to mixed parents," he says. "Yet this album is no fusion, except perhaps of minds. Rather it attempts to prove that song is cross-cultural currency. All music is social, emerging out of a womb of trust, empathy, and a common goal. Our world is now many...may we also learn to be one."