



Matt Marantz Short Bio

Matt Marantz is a Dallas-based saxophonist and composer. A native of Texas, Matt grew up in a musical family. His early studies were completed at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, and after graduating in 2004 he moved to New York City to study at the Manhattan School of Music with the likes of teachers such as Garry Dial, Bob Mintzer, John Riley, and Steve Wilson. He now holds a bachelor's degree in jazz performance on saxophone from that institution.

During his career, Marantz has played with jazz notables such as Herbie Hancock, Dave Brubeck, Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Branford Marsalis, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Ingrid Jensen, Steve Cardenas, and Terence Blanchard. He has performed with various groups at musical venues such as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., The Monterey Jazz Festival, The Umbria Winter Jazz Festival, and the TIM Jazz Festival in Brazil. Marantz has also performed at New York City music venues such as Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Merkin Hall, 55bar, and the Jazz Standard.

In his music education career, Marantz has been recognized multiple times in the Downbeat Student Music Awards issue and has won a total of 26 awards from that publication. Matt was named top jazz soloist for four years in a row by Downbeat's Student Music Awards and was named the co-winner for the jazz soloist award in 2006 for university level.

Matt was selected to be a member of the 2009-2011 Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz 6-piece college ensemble that is part of a 2-year artist diploma program in New Orleans. He studied there under artistic director Terence Blanchard, and in May of 2010 the Monk Ensemble traveled to China alongside jazz greats Herbie Hancock and DeeDee Bridgewater to perform at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing and the World Expo in Shanghai.

After graduating from the Monk Institute in May of 2011 with a jazz performance certificate, Marantz received a graduate assistantship at William Paterson University and is now pursuing a master's degree at that institution. A resident of the NYC metro area, Matt performs regularly in New York with Jonathan Batiste's band and various other musical groups.

In March of 2010, Marantz's first CD recording, "Offering," was released independently. On the CD, Marantz leads a stellar group of musicians through a set of 11 original compositions. The band possesses a unique empathy and a collective ease of flowing ideas that give each song a personal touch.

