

Stafford L. JAMES

Double Bass / Composer

"The world of music is far greater than one's categorization of musics or musicians. The common thread is based on excellence and one's openness to the global community and not only to special interests"
– S. James

Born: April 24, 1946
Evanston,
Illinois, U.S.A.

**French & American
citizenships**



Photo : Frédéric Huijbregts
www.fh-photo.com

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EDUCATION

- Chicago Conservatory College
Bass Studies - Rudolf Fasbender, Major Professor
- Mannes College of Music
Bass Studies - Julius Levine, Major Professor

Stylistic characteristics:

Fluid Arco Style where Contrabass plays Melodies & Solos.

Pizzicato : Singing Quality in approach.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(Contrebass - Classic)

- United Nations International School - New York (73-76)
- Umbria Summer Music Clinics, Perugia - Italy (84-86)
- The New School - NYC (86-88)
- Music Conservatory of Sydney, Australia (81 and 82)

COUNTRIES TOURED

U.S.A. (including Hawaii), Mexico, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, England, France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Luxembourg, Italy, Sardinia, Spain, Portugal, India, Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Uzbekistan (Samarkand).

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

➤ Jazz

Kenny Barron, Betty Carter, Al Cohn, Alice Coltrane, Dameronia, Sonny Fortune, Dexter Gordon, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Bobby Hutcherson, J.J. Johnson, Milt Jackson, Melba Moore, Woody Shaw, Joe Williams, Nancy Wilson, Mingus Dynasty, Freddy Hubbard, Jacky Maclean, Art Blakey, Pharoah Sanders, McCoy Tyner Trio.

➤ Other

Ukrainian National Orchestra (by invitation - 1991)

DISCOGRAPHY (Selection)

Albert Ayler	"Music is the Healing Force", ABC "Water Music", Paramount Impulse
Gary Bartz	"I've Known Rivers", Fantasy "Follow the Medicine Man", Fantasy
Dexter Gordon	"Homecoming", C.B.S. "The Best of Dexter Gordon" C.B.S.
Robin Kenyatta	"Namosa", Muse
Andrew Hill	"Spiral", Arista
Oliver Lake	"Heavy Spirits", Arista
John Scofield	"Rough House", Enja
Woody Shaw	"Little Red's Fantasy", Muse "Live at Berlin", Muse "For Sure", C.B.S. "The Best of Woody Shaw", C.B.S. "Master of the Art", Elektra "Night Music", Elektra "Live in Europe", Red Records "Lotus Flower", Enja
Bill Hardman	"Focus", Muse
Cecil Payne	"Casbah" Empathy
Jimmy Heath	"Peer Pleasure", Landmark

Ronnie Mathews	"Salana's Dance", Timeless
Barney Wilen	"French Movie Themes", Timeless
Pharoah Sanders	"Moon Child", Timeless
	"Ballads", Timeless
Lavelle	"Tribute - Nat King Cole"
Stafford James	"Stafford James", Horo
	"The Stafford James Ensemble", Red Records
	"Le Gecko", StajaMusic in co-production with WDR Radio, Cologne

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS (Selection)

➤ Recorded by other artists

Bertha Baptist	Gary Bartz (Fantasy) Harvey Mason (Arista) Lee Ritenour (MCA) Also sampled and re-arranged by WUZ & Alex Gopher for their Long Island French House Music CD
Sashia-nova	Woody Shaw (Muse) P.J. Perry (Canadian Records)
My Gift to You	Louis Hayes (Muse)
Game	Woody Shaw (Enja)
Teotiuacan	" "
Blues in the Pocket	Joan Cartwright

➤ Recorded by the Stafford James Project

City of Dreams	Stafford James (Horo)
Neptune's Child	" "
Costa Bruciata	" "
Untitled Blues	" "
12 for 4, Del Samba	Stafford James (Red Records)

Le Gecko **Staja Records**

Including: Cap Bénat, le Gecko, Gaia, Cristallissime, Changing World, Good News a' comin', When and How, Espoir, Kisses and Rainbows & Tongue 'n cheek.

- **A large number of other original compositions are performed by the SJP in live concerts and have been recorded by various radios, amongst which are**

Cimiez, Capo Tasto, That's What Dreams are Made of, Solitudes, Consequence, Kaleidoscope, Sauvez la Terre, Conspectus, Rejuvenation, Glide, Humility, Musinta, Muguet, Nighthawk, Espoir, To say you love, etc.
"Sonatina" for Viola d'Amore and Double Bass,
"Spirit of Man" for Chamber Orchestra,
"Ethiopia Suite" for 2 Basses, String Quartet, Drums and Percussion (Premiered with 10 dancers in New York in April 1986),
"Untitled Solo Viola d'Amore".

RE-ORCHESTRATIONS OF EXISTING WORKS

From Rossini, Brahms, Boccherini, Soler & Scarlatti.

MAJOR LIVE PERFORMANCES OF THE STAFFORD JAMES PROJECT

Festivals :

- *Italy*
 - La Spezia Festival
 - Ivrea International Festival
 - Catania
- *Germany*
 - Zelt Music Festival
 - St Ingbert (Special Project for 2 contrabasses, drums & percussions)
- *USA*
 - Telluride Music Festival
 - Village Gate, NYC
- *Monaco*
 - Johnnie & Jazz Masters
- *The Netherlands*
 - The North Sea Jazz Festival
- *Spain*
 - Badajoz
 - Jaén
 - Vigo
 - Seville
 - Valladolid
 - Oviedo

Recitals :

- *Sonatina for Viola d'Amore and Double Bass*
University of Texas in Austin, USA &
3rd International Viola d'Amore Congress in Stuttgart, Germany

European Premieres :

- "*Sonatina for Viola d'Amore and Doublebass*" (1988)
Europaisches Musikfest Stuttgart, Germany
- "*Des pyrénées à la Mer*" (1990)
Orchestre National de Bordeaux

Radio shows & recordings :

- **W.D.R. Cologne, Germany**
1988, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002
"Sunrise", & "Abstemious" are 2 original compositions for Viola
d'Amore, Guitar, Vibraphone, Bass, Trap set Drums and Percussion
which were written especially for one of these recorded occasions.
- **Radio France** - 1989, 1990, 1993 & 2002
- **Bayerischer Rundfunk** (Munich) 1993
- **W.B.G.O.** - New York, U.S.A. - 1990
- **NPS**, The Netherlands Jan 97 - Stafford James Special Project

GRANTS

1976 - National Endowment for the Arts
1984 - World Tour USIS (United States Information Services - former USIA)
1985 – New York State Council for the Arts

COMMISSIONS

1986 - Viola d'Amore (International Viola d'Amore Society)

FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient of the 1998 Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship in Umbertide, Italy and
New York, USA.

ADJUDICATION

1994 - European Jazz Competition, Leverkusen, Germany

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz

The International Who's Who in Music -Vol. 2 Pop Music 2000
& Light Classical Music 2002 (Melrose Press)

Penguin Guide to Jazz (Penguin)

Dictionnaire du Jazz (Bouquins)

Encyclopedia of Jazz in the 70's (Horizon)

Comment [CJ1]: