

Jerome “Jay Dubz” Williams – alto saxophonist

A native St Louisan, I began my musical training at the Community Music school, which later became CASA. There I studied alto saxophone and also advanced my clarinet studies through an opportunity instituted by the St Louis Conservatory of Music. I received a full music scholarship to Mississippi Valley State University, and also studied music at the University of Missouri – St Louis (UMSL).



I have performed on diverse venues and recorded in various genres of music, from the traditional to the experimental. In 1977, in a ceremonious initiation into the world of avant-garde Jazz I performed as a member of the Glen 'Papa' Wright Ensemble, as part of a series of concerts showcasing former BAG (Black Artist Group) musicians as well as several other concerts.

I continued to advance my discipleship as a performing jazz artist as co-leader of the contemporary jazz ensemble **Millennium**, opened for many visiting Jazz greats including Johnny Griffin, Art Ensemble of Chicago, and others.

Later in 1977-78, I performed with visiting native jazz revolutionaries Luther Thomas and Joe Bowie's **Human Arts Ensemble** in St Louis. In an onetime historical event in 1979 as a member of renowned trumpeter Lester Bowie's **Sho' Nuff Orchestra**, I performed at the Symphony Space, NY, NY with 59 of the most respected living mavericks and now legends of the avant-garde jazz. Followed by a live radio broadcast trio performance with fellow St Louis contemporaries guitarist Kelvyn Bell and percussionist Ronnie Burrage at Columbia University's WKCR 89.9FM, NY.. I have been informed that this recorded performance is being still aired and lauded internationally.

In the past decade, I was a performing member and co-director of the experimental arts collective **BAG II**, a collaboration of creative musicians, reinvigorating and reviving St Louis' unique avant-garde music scene, which was formulated in the late 1960's by the original BAG (Black Artist Group) members. For several years, I also led a Jazz duo accompanied by some of St Louis' most premier bassist - Jamal Nichols, Darrell Mixon, and Kim LaCoste.

Upon these foundations I have continued collaborating and advancing the art form (2015 performing engagements):

- Performing musician and arranger of music in the theatrical production, **Discipline 27/11: The Story of Jazz Icon Sun Ra**, a three-day performance at Forest Park Community College, St Louis.
- Performed on various venues with the **Spiritual Revolution Ensemble**, a 7-piece collective of experimental jazz musicians, which highlighted some of St Louis' most renowned and developing spoken-word artist.
- Performed in two extraordinary concerts with world-renowned St Louis native percussionist, Ronnie Burrage, the **RoBu Big Band**. A rare gathering of some of St Louis' most accomplished jazz artist (Willie Akins, Chad Evans, Jeffery Anderson, Henry Claude, Darrell Mixon, Eric

Slaughter, Ptah Williams and others)

- Performed with St Louis' own legendary percussionist and former Black Artist Group member, **Charles “Bobo” Shaw** at The Luminary as part of the presentation, “**Change is a Sound: Free Jazz and Collective Practice in Political Movements**”

I'm presently performing and recording with the **STL Free Jazz Collective**, a diverse group of accomplished and dedicated musicians steeped in the theoretical approaches, techniques, and our joint local legacy of creative and advanced improvisational music.