

Oh, about Jason...a **JAZZ** dream he's chasin'!

By CP Christopher Peppas

This is a story about Jason Fabus (pronounced like famous, which he is most assuredly on his way to becoming).

He is a thirty-four year old made of flesh and blood. But, to hear him tell it, one has to add "saxophone" to his human genome classification. More on that later!

Jason could well be the Poster Boy for the Jazz Unlimited Scholarship Fund. As a junior and senior in Wauwatosa (2006-07), Jason pulled down some cash during the live auditions those two years. And he used said dinero to stoke the engine of the train heading toward a career in playing his beloved **JAZZ!**



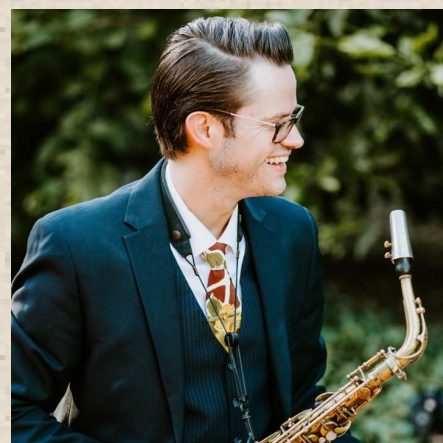
In re: the aforementioned sax being a part of his DNA, Jason explained. "I keep a discipline in *one* instrument. It's my voice. Not the notes, not even the scales. I'm just singing through it. The alto is an extension of who I am," he said in a recent interview.

What Jason Fabus IS is simply fabulous. He is a known commodity in the most fertile area for music and the recording industry, Los Angeles. And he has risen to the top like cream on a bottle of milk in America's Dairyland.

Jason is breathing the same rarified air of renown like the greats from this area who have gone before. Like Woody Herman, Les Paul, Al Jarreau, Joe Turano and others, he has written and performed on albums that have gotten consideration for the Holy Grail, vis a vis, The Grammy.

Fabus was in town visiting family this past summer and managed to string together some gigs, including playing Blu at the top of The Pfister.

"It's always great to come back and get some cats to play with," Jason said. It's hard to herd cats they say, but count yourself lucky if you "heard" those cats.





Fabus counts Scott Napoli and Paul Desmond as major influences on how he approaches the alto. "I sound a lot like him (Desmond).

"I'm also getting into the old standards of the 20s and 30s by (Louie) Pops Armstrong," Jason said. "When you play, if you take a moment and think about the connection...you can feel it."

He does want to model his career after the ubiquitous Wynton Marsalis, who burst onto the scene at a young age and has remained within spitting distance of the spotlight ever since. "When I do get to reflect, I know I have so much more that I want to do," Jason said.

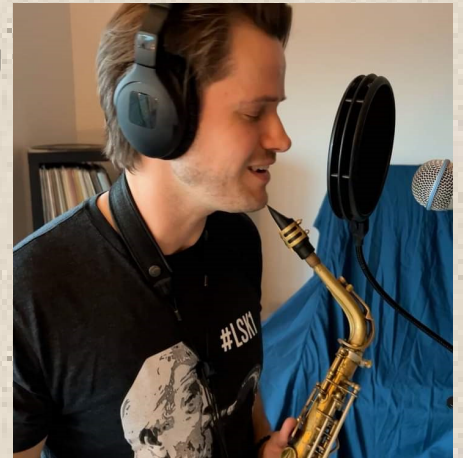
"I've been building a name for myself. I've got a long way to go."

My dad showed me Take Five when I was first showing interest," Jason said. "And it has remained an influence my entire life. First, it's the sound. And then, it's the simplicity of it."

Jason credits his parents for fostering his love of music.

"They supported both me and my sister, always encouraging me to play. We were always getting music as presents... every birthday, every Christmas."

When it comes to the laundry list of jazz genres, Fabus wants in on all of them. "I guess the most honest answer is that I like bebop at my core," Jason said. "I want to explore multiple genres. I like the straight ahead sound of a (John) Coltrane and Sonny Rollins.



"But I like Gypsy Jazz (and its most famous habitue) and the stuff Django (Reinhardt) did."

We'll all have to wait 'til the holidays roll around before Jason will make a return trip to the Third Coast. At that time, keep both eyes peeled to your local listings to find out where and with which cats he'll be playing. It will be worth your while, that you can take to the bank.

Until then, thank God for today's technology where you can fill up on the music of Mr. Fabus after a Google search or click on some YouTube videos.

Oh, one more thing: please continue to support Jazz Unlimited Milwaukee on its website, at the monthly jazz jams and the

Fall Jazz Showcase at Mescalero's on Sunday, October 29.

You never know when your contribution will help the next phenom to chase their jazz dreams.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CP Christopher Peppas is a Journalist, Jazz Vocalist and Conga Player in the Greater Milwaukee Area and Correspondent at Large for the *Jazz Unlimited Newsletter* and a Field Editor for *Our Wisconsin Magazine*.

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