

JIM KNAPP

Jim Knapp, director of the Jim Knapp Orchestra, trumpet player, composer, and teacher was born in Chicago, received BA and MA degrees in Music Composition from the University of Illinois, and lives in Seattle.

From 1977 to 1986, Jim directed and performed with the Composers and Improvisors Orchestra, a jazz chamber orchestra that presented new work by Karl Berger, Carla Bley, Anthony Braxton, Bob Brookmeyer, Gil Evans, Dave Holland, Jim McNeely, Art Lande, Gary Peacock, Julian Priester, Sam Rivers, William O. Smith, Ralph Towner and Cedar Walton, as well as members of the orchestra and regional composers.

From 1979 to 1986, Jim performed with the collective improvisation group First Avenue (later New Avenue) that included Denney Goodhew, Eric Jensen, Jay Clayton and Jerry Granelli. ECM released their album First Avenue in 1980 with Knapp, Goodhew and Jensen.

The Jim Knapp Orchestra was established in 1995. The band has recordings released on Seabreeze, Origin and A-Records and has performed at clubs and festivals throughout the Pacific Northwest. The orchestra features the original compositions and arrangements of Jim Knapp and includes many of the finest jazz musicians of the region. The Jim Knapp Orchestra won the Earshot "Best Acoustic Jazz Group" award in 1995 and its CD, *Things For Now*, received the Earshot "Jazz Record Of The Year" award in 1999.

As a composer, Jim has composed dance/theater pieces for Robert Davidson, Stephanie Skura, Joan Skinner, and others. He has created original pieces for the Composers and Improvisors Orchestra, the Jazz Orchestra of the Hochschule Der Kunst in Berlin, the Chamber Groove Orchestra and the Jim Knapp Orchestra. He has also written arrangements for theater productions and various album projects from jazz to heavy metal.

Jim has received a National Endowment for the Arts "Jazz Composition Fellowship", a Seattle Arts Commission "Individual Artist Music Composition" grant, a "Special Projects Music Composition" award from the King County Arts Commission, and support from Meet the Composer and Artist Trust.

As a performer, Jim has served as a trumpet player in various ensembles such as the "International Creative Music Orchestra" and the "New York Composers Orchestra West"; groups led by Jay Clayton, Rob Scheps, Wayne Horvitz, Warren Rand, Brad Shepik, and Gary Peacock; and as trumpet soloist on jazz, pop and new age albums, by such regional artists as Linda Waterfall, Pax Wallace, Steve Korn and David Casper. He is represented as a composer and/or performer on the ECM, A-Records, Origin, Seabreeze, Flying Fish, Catalyst, and Mode record labels.

As an educator, Jim developed the Jazz Program at Cornish College in the late 70's with a distinguished faculty that has included Jay Clayton, Chuck Deardorf, Denney Goodhew, Jerry Granelli, Carter Jefferson, Art Lande, Joni Metcalf, Gary Peacock, Dave Peterson, Julian Priester, Michael Spiro, and Jim Wilke. He continues to teach at Cornish with the academic rank of Professor.

CD's by the Jim Knapp Orchestra are: *Things for Now* on A-Records (AL73180), *On Going Home* on Seabreeze (SB2078) and *Secular Breathing* on Origin (82412).

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