

# **Stomvi Trumpet Artist**

## **Brian D. Swartz**

Trumpet, EVI, Composer, Arranger, Instructor  
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Born December 16, 1967, Brian is a second generation trumpeter. His father, CMSgt Lawrence Swartz (1937-1992), was a 30 year trumpeter in the United States Air Force. Brian's early exposure to music made a profound influence on him and he started playing trumpet at the age of ten. As a teenager, his family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he attended Armijo High School. He played all through his high school years and won many honors and accolades. He graduated from Armijo in 1986 and began his music education at Solano Community College. In 1988, he moved to Los Angeles to attend California State University at Northridge where he could further hone his craft. He also attended the University of Southern California.

Brian started his own group in 1996 and has become an accomplished composer and arranger and he has performed at most of the major jazz venues in Los Angeles leading his own groups including; The Catalina Bar & Grill, The Jazz Bakery, LACMA, Spazio, Steamer's Cafe, The Baked Potato, Lunaria, The Pasadena Jazz Institute, The Jazz Spot, Fais Do Do and King King. In May, 2000, Brian completed his debut CD as a leader, "There's Only Me", which was released worldwide on Noir Records.

Brian's versatility as either a jazz soloist, powerful section player or an adept arranger has made him a much sought after sideman. He can be heard on recordings with The Dixie Chicks, Patti Labelle, Joe Henry, Keb' Mo', Michael Bublé, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Gladys Knight, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Jackie Green, Taylor Eigsti, the Buddy Childers Big Band, Gerry Gibbs' Thrasher Band, Red and the Red Hots, Jane Getz, Dale Fielder, Todd Hunter, Rebecca Kyler Downs, Teddy Thompson, Dave Sherr's Artmusic Ensemble, Josh Nelson, Raya Yarbrough and numerous other TV and film studio dates. Brian performed and arranged the horns for the Dixie Chicks' 2006 CD, "Taking the Long Way," which won 4 Grammys including "Album of the Year."

As a sideman, Brian has performed with Buddy Childers, Jack Sheldon's Big Band, Tom Harrell, Bob Florence's "Limited Edition," Canadian "crooner" Michael Bublé, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, The O'Jays, Johnny Vatos' Tribute to Oingo Boingo, The Luckman Jazz Orchestra, Francisco Aguabella's Latin Jazz Sextet, The Jazz on the Latin Side All Stars, Jane Getz, Todd Hunter, Buddy Montgomery, Carmen Lundy, Dale Fielder, Black/Note, Don Rickles, Bruce Lofgren's "After Burner," Bobby White's Lighthouse All Stars, Chuck Flores, The Jazz Spot Orchestra, Rebecca Kyler Downs, Bruce Eskovitz's Jazz Orchestra, Dina Deluxe, Sandra Booker and Raya Yarbrough.

Since 1996, Brian has been a core member with the critically acclaimed Jazzantiqua, a dance company which performs extended works with a live jazz quintet. The company has performed to rave reviews at the L.A. Theater Center and at the John Anson Ford Amphitheater. In 2007, Brian was chosen to be Jazzantiqua's new music director/composer.

For three years in the late 1990's Brian was a regular member of one of LA's best swing bands, Red and the Red Hots, with whom he appeared on the "Donnie and Marie Show" and "Everybody Loves Raymond." Brian also performed at the 1999 Playboy Jazz Festival with actor/pianist Jeff Goldblum's Miriam Schnitzer Orchestra. Brian played and acted as contractor for the Tom Harrell Big Band which performed music from Harrell's Grammy nominated CD

“Time’s Mirror” (RCA/Victor), at the Jazz Bakery in December of 1999. This band also performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival in September of 2000. More recently, Brian performed at the 2001 Playboy Jazz Festival in Pasadena with Bruce Lofgren’s fusion orchestra, After Burner.

In 2002, Brian began exploring his “fusion” roots. For this exploration Brian uses electronic effects on his trumpet and his nimbleness on his Akai/Steiner EVI, a wind driven synthesizer based on, but not sounding or looking like, the trumpet. He continues to compose in this direction and it is a source of intense and powerful music. In 2003, Brian began working a quartet featuring Bob Florence on piano. This group played exclusively standards but with a unique twist that only Brian Swartz and Bob Florence could provide. This collaboration produced a CD, “Live at the Jazz Bakery,” which was released in July 2005 on Summit Records. Brian’s second CD for Summit Records, “Three,” was released in June of 2006. “Three” was an homage to Chet Baker and the wonderful trio that he led in the late 1970’s which featured trumpet, guitar and bass. For his recording, Swartz chose Larry Koonse to play guitar and Darek Oles to play the bass. “Three” included eight standards and four original songs composed by Swartz.

Brian’s latest CD, “Portraiture,” is currently in production and showcases his band The Gnu Sextet. The Gnu Sextet features some of the best young jazz stars in Los Angeles including Matt Otto on tenor sax, Martin Sullivan on trombone, Andy Langham on piano, J.P. Maramba bass and drummer Jens Kuross. This dynamic group plays Swartz’s original tunes/arrangements and has held down a regular gig as the house band at the Tuesday jam session at the Club 1160 in Hollywood since May of 2005.

Brian has performed as a guest artist/clinician with Saugus H.S., Valencia H.S., the Los Angeles H.S. for the Arts, Santa Monica College, Occidental College and Cal State University at Northridge. He has also participated as a guest artist/clinician at the Pink Pop International Jazz Exchange which brings dozens of jazz students every other year from Germany to CSUN for a two week jazz camp. In 2003-2004, Brian served as a jazz combo coach at CSUN. Since 2004, Brian has endorsed Stomvi trumpets and has represented Stomvi as a guest clinician in the South Western United States. In late 2007, Brian was invited to be a core member of the newly formed Los Angeles Jazz Collective.

For five years, Brian studied with trumpet guru Bobby Shew. Bobby showed him the importance of passing down the tradition of trumpet playing and since 1997 Brian has maintained a very busy schedule of private students in the Los Angeles area. Brian has also studied with John Coppola (SFO), Bill Bing (CSUN), John Thomas (USC), and LA studio legend Uan Rasey. Brian’s dedication to mastering his craft and continually building upon his knowledge has brought him to prominence in the Los Angeles jazz scene.