

LYNN RILEY

Saxophone, flute

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-BIOGRAPHY-

Lynn Riley enjoys a vibrant career as a jazz musician, composer, and educator, whose primary instruments are saxophone and flute. As the leader of The World-Mix, Lynn has been described more than once as "Superwoman" of the sax. Born in Washington, D.C., and raised outside of Philadelphia, Pa., she received a B. A. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Hawaii. Her time spent in Hawaii was influential in developing her sensibility to, and awareness of, different musical cultures. She continued her musical studies at the University of Missouri Kansas City, studied privately with Doris Sellers (principal flutist of the Kansas City Symphony), saxophone with Ahmed Alladeen, and immersed in its rich jazz tradition, apprenticed and performed with many of KC's jazz legends. She became involved with the Women's Jazz Festival, an international festival highlighting women musicians. There she had the opportunity to play with luminaries like Carmen McRae, Marian McPartland, Shirley Scott, Emily Remler and Blossom Dearie. After 5 years on the Board of Directors, she headed back east. Since returning to Philadelphia, Lynn has performed with many great artists like Grover Washington Jr., Philly Joe Jones, David Bromberg, Rachele Farrell, Charles Earland, Gerald Veasley, David Murray and Johnny Pacheco, as well as leading her own group Lynn Riley And The World-Mix. She was chosen to perform at the Painted Bride Arts Center for their series Women Leaders in Jazz in 2000. She has opened for artists such as Najee, Spyro Gyra, Nelson Rangell, Nester Torres, Andy Narell, the Indigo Girls, Brenda K Star, the Mahotella Queens and Compai Segundo of the Buena Vista Club. She has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

More recently Lynn has been expanding her composing vocabulary, traveling and performing in Ghana, Cuba, South Africa, Bolivia, Brazil and Columbia, adding fresh material to The World-Mix repertoire.

She received a Window of Opportunity grant from the Leeway Foundation in 2004. Her proficiency has been recognized by the Trane Stop Resource Institute, which presented her with an award acknowledging her contribution in preserving and promoting Afro-American Classical Music. The NAJE presented her with an award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education.

Lynn has been on the faculty of the Performing Arts Department of Drexel University since 1998. She was director of the AMLA (Latin American Musician's Association) Roots of Latin Jazz program, presenting workshops to schools throughout the Greater Philadelphia area from 2000-2010. She was also the Artist in Residence for Opera Seabrook's 2008-09 season.

Collaboration with long time friend, co-band member and producer Rubin Edwards has generated many magical musical moments, from riveting live performances and beautiful compositions to production of Lynn's albums *Too Cool* (2009) and her new release *Lynn Riley and The World-Mix Say What* (2014).

A powerful dynamo in a tiny package, Riley has been described as "fierce" for her amazing prowess and conviction that stretches across genres.

"She's a show stopper. She wails, she grooves, she swings. She plays with authority, with power, with soul.

Ron Avery, Philadelphia Daily News

"Ms. Riley is a sax dynamo who can blow away the walls or soothe the savage beasts. She is one of the very finest working the reeds in this town."

True Van Deusen, Philly jazz

"She kicks ass with such conviction, laying out funk-infused, jazz-inflected salsa with such raw power, audiences are often stunned."

Marjorie Preston-The Philadelphia Weekly

"Lynn's signature style can be described as bold, melodious, rhythmic, sophisticated and sultry. She draws you in like nothing I have experienced."

Kim Yvette Stanley of Associated Content