



Lynn Riley & The World-Mix

Lynn Riley Artistic Bio

“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

Known as the “Superwoman” of the saxophone and the leader of her group “*Lynn Riley and The World-Mix*”, saxophonist and flutist Lynn Riley expands the musical horizons that inform her infectious music. A gifted instrumentalist and composer, Riley has impressed critics and audiences alike with her funky and accessible sound that is firmly rooted in the mainstream jazz tradition while suffused with influences from a host of the world’s variety of music and the blues. Based in Philadelphia, she has performed with David Murray, Johnny Pacheco, Grover Washington Jr., Philly Joe Jones, David Bromberg, Peter White, Rachelle Farrell, and Charles Earland, among others.

She has performed at Lincoln Center-Outdoors and the Brooklyn Art Museum, NYC, the Kimmel Center, and the Center City Jazz Festival, Philadelphia, the Getty Museum, Los Angeles, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Minneapolis, the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, Wilmington, the Trenton Jazz Festival and the Mellon Jazz Festival, as well as internationally in Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guadeloupe, South Africa, and Ghana. Over the years Riley’s compositional vocabulary and style have been informed by her studies in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, and Bali.

HEAD TO THE SKY (2022) is Lynn’s latest release. *Lynn Riley and The World Mix Say What* album was released to critical acclaim in 2014, following Riley’s first CD *Too Cool* (2009). She has recorded numerous albums for other artists. She was featured in the television show *Good Day Philadelphia* in 2013, received a Window of Opportunity Grant from the Leeway Foundation in 2004 and was chosen to perform at the Painted Bride Arts Center for their series *Women Leaders in Jazz*. She has given master classes, been a clinician at jazz festivals, and adjudicated at musical competitions. Her proficiency has been recognized by the Trane Stop Resource Institute, which presented

her with an award acknowledging her contribution to preserving and promoting Afro-American Classical Music. The NAJE presented her with an award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised outside of Philadelphia, Riley earned a B.A. in Ethnomusicology at the University of Hawaii. She continued her musical studies at the University of Missouri in Kansas City where she spent five years on the Board of Directors of the Women's Jazz Festival and played with such luminaries as Carmen McRae, Marian McPartland, and Shirley Scott, Emily Remler, and Blossom Dearie. She is currently a Masters of Liberal Arts candidate at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to performing, Riley has been on the faculty at Drexel University since 1999. As director of a community-based learning practicum at the Dornsife Center, she supervises Drexel students who teach free after-school music lessons to the children of the Mantua-Powelton community of Philadelphia.

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Contact

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