



Ben Allison is a “visionary composer, adventurous improviser, and strong organizational force on the New York City jazz scene, [and] has emerged as a rising star over the past decade” (JazzTimes).

With his groups Peace Pipe, Man Size Safe, Medicine Wheel and the Kush Trio Ben has toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and Brazil winning fans and building new audiences with an adventurous yet accessible sound and a flair for the unexpected.

Called “one of today’s best young jazz musicians” by the Boston Globe, Ben has released eight albums of original music — *Little Things Run the World* (2008), *Cowboy Justice* (2006), *Buzz* (2004), *Peace Pipe* (2002), *Riding the Nuclear Tiger* (2001), *Third Eye* (1999), and *Medicine*

Wheel (1998) on Palmetto Records, and his 1996 debut *Seven Arrows* on the Koch Jazz label — all of which showcase Ben’s forward-thinking vision as a producer, composer, arranger, and bassist, and his hands-on approach to his craft.

Cited in the “Best Bassist” category of the 2007, 2006 and 2005 Downbeat Readers’ Poll, Ben’s work has not gone unnoticed by the press. Since 2003 Ben has been routinely listed in the Downbeat Critics Poll in an extremely wide variety of categories including “Bassist,” “Composer,” “Rising Star Bassist,” (ranking #1 in 2005, 2006 and 2007), “Rising Star Album,” “Rising Star Acoustic Group,” “Rising Star Arranger,” and “Rising Star Jazz Artist,” all of which is a testament to his dedication as a musician.

“I see the the whole process — from assembling a band, writing and work-shopping the music, recording and mastering the album, doing the artwork and writing the notes, and then touring the project — to be all part of the process of musical expression.” says Ben. “I enjoy every step as they all demand a certain kind of positive energy. And I get to collaborate with a wide range of very creative people.”

Ben’s most recent album *Little Things Run the World*, reached #1 on the CMJ National Jazz radio charts and remained in the top 20 for over four months. His previous five albums, achieved similar radio success, being among the most played albums of the years in which they were released, garnering him 6 SESAC National Performance Awards, and have been named as among the best of the year by publications such as Billboard, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Village Voice, Jazz Times, Jazz Journalists Association, Downbeat Critics Poll, All About Jazz, Coda (Canada), and Jazz Review (UK), among many others.

At the age of twenty-five, Ben formed the Jazz Composers Collective — a musician-run, non-profit organization based in New York City that is dedicated to constructing an environment where artists can exercise their ideals of creating and risking through the development and exploration of new music. As the Artistic Director and a Composer-in-Residence of the Jazz Composers Collective, Ben has produced or co-produced over 100 concerts and special events, including the Collective’s annual concert series (which ran for eleven seasons), national and international tours by Collective artists, an on-going Collective residency at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA, NYC), and an annual “Jazz Composers Collective Festival” at the Jazz Standard — which has drawn international attention as a mainstay of New York City’s musical life. As a member of the Collective Ben has received commissioning, performing, and recording grants from Chamber Music America, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Foundation, Meet the Composer, and the American Composers Forum.

Born in 1966 in New Haven, Connecticut, Ben has performed the world over with musicians ranging from oudist Ara Dinkjian to saxophonist Lee Konitz to legendary performance artist Joey Arias. He has appeared on over 40 albums by various artists and has written music for film, national television and radio, including the theme for the National Public Radio (NPR) show *On the Media* (which boasts a listenership of over 1,000,000 people per week) and the score for *Two Days*, a play written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Donald Margulies. He was a featured artist with the Jazz Sinfonica Orchestra of Sao Paulo in 2005 and 2008.

PERFORMANCES AS A LEADER (Selected List):

US & Canada: SF Jazz Festival, Earshot Jazz Festival (Seattle, WA), Jazz Standard (NY), Tonic (NY), KUSH (NY), Museum of Modern Art (NY), Knitting Factory (NY), Bell Atlantic Jazz Festival (NY), JVC Jazz Festival (NY), Cedar Arts Center (NY), Lake George Jazz Festival (NY), Saratoga Jazz Festival (NY), the Berklee College of Music (Boston), Providence Jazz Festival (RI), Convergence Arts Festival (Providence, RI), Artsposure (Charlotte, NC), Carboro Arts Center (Chapel Hill, NC), City Folk (Dayton), Wexner Center (Columbus, OH), Northrup Auditorium (Minneapolis), Lincoln Theater (New Haven, CT), New Haven Jazz Festival (CT), New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas (CT), the Aldridge Museum (Ridgefield, CT), the Bethlehem Jazz Festival (PA), Revival (Toronto), Ottawa Jazz Festival (Canada), The Atlanta Jazz Festival (GA), The Eddie Moore Festival (CA), Jazz at the Bistro (St Louis, MO), the Outpost (Albuquerque, NM), Jazz at the Bistro (St Louis, MO)

International: North Sea Jazz Festival (Hague, Netherlands), Oxford Festival of Contemporary Music (England), Turner Sims Hall (S. Hampton, England), Jazz & Wine Festival (Gorizia, Italy), Brecon Jazz Festival (Wales), Chapelle du Mejan (Arles, France), Jazz en Augusto Festival (Lisbon), Loule Jazz Festival (Portugal), Teatro de Nuova (Venice), Bim Huis and the Groningen Jazz Festival (Netherlands), DeWerf (Brugge, Belgium), the Copenhagen Jazz House (Denmark), Umea Jazz Festival (Sweden), The Village (Vasteras, Sweden), San Miguel Jazz Festival (Mexico), Pizza Express (London), Teatro Gonzaga (Cremona, Italy), Sala Vanni (Firenze, Italy), Auditorium di Milano (Milano, Italy), Villa Baruchello (Sant Elpidio, Italy), Jazz in Bianco Festival (Brisghella, Italy), Clusone Jazz Festival (Clusone, Italy), Cuneo Jazz Festival (Cuneo, Italy), Azores Islands (Portugal), Teatro Artisti (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

CLINICS/RESIDENCIES (Selected List):

Appalachian State University (North Carolina), University of North Carolina (Greensboro & Charlotte), New York University, New School University (NY), Mannes College (NY), Educational Center for the Arts (New Haven), Fieldston School (Riverdale, NY), Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Copenhagen), Oxford University (UK), Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA), Brown (Providence, RI), Augustana College (IL), University of Iowa (IA), Westport Arts Center (CT),

FILM, RADIO, and TELEVISION (Composition/Performance):

Two Days, Score (play by Donald Margulies) TIAA-Cref, Four Themes (national TV); Advair (national TV); On the Media, Main theme, promo, and incidental (National Public Radio/NPR); An Amsterdam Tale, Score (Cineventura Production, Netherlands); Up All Night, Incidental (USA Network); 40+ Commercials (performance, various networks); Girl Fight (Independent film)

DISCOGRAPHY (Selected List):

Ben Allison Quartet, *Cowboy Justice*; Ben Allison & Man Size Safe, *Little Things Run the World*; Ben Allison's Peace Pipe, *Peace Pipe*; Ben Allison & Medicine Wheel, *Buzz*, *Riding the Nuclear Tiger*, *Third Eye*, and *Medicine Wheel* (Palmetto Records); Ben Allison Quintet, *Seven Arrows* (Koch Jazz); The Herbie Nichols Project: *Strange City* (Palmetto), *Dr. Cyclops' Dream* (Soul Note), *Love Is Proximity* (Soul Note); Ted Nash, *Still Evolved* (Palmetto), *Rhyme and Reason* (Arabesque); Ron Horton, *Genius Envy* (Omnitone Records); Palmetto Artists, *The Other Side of Ellington* (Palmetto); Frank Kimbrough, *Chant* (IGMOD); Michael Blake, *Elevated* (Knitting Factory), *Drift* (Intuition); Lee Konitz, *Rhapsody - Volumes 1 & 2* (Evidence)

AWARDS (Selected List):

Bird Award - North Sea Jazz Festival, 2005
Bassist of the Year, 2005, 2006, and 2007 Downbeat Readers' Poll
Jazz Journalist Association - 2003 Jazz Awards nominations - Best Album (Peace Pipe), Best Composer, Up & Coming Artist
SESAC 2006 National Performance Award - Cowboy Justice (radio airplay)
SESAC 2006 National Performance Award - Larry Goldings, Quartet (radio airplay)
SESAC 2004 National Performance Award - Buzz (radio airplay)
SESAC 2002 National Performance Award - Peace Pipe (radio airplay)
SESAC 2001 National Performance Award - Riding the Nuclear Tiger (radio airplay)
SESAC 1999 National Performance Award - Third Eye (radio airplay)
Album of the Year, 2003, Downbeat Critics' Poll
Bassist of the Year (Rising Star), 2003, 2004, 2005*, 2006*, 2007* Downbeat Critics' Poll
Acoustic Jazz Group of the Year (Rising Star), 2003, 2004, 2005 Downbeat Critics' Poll
Composer of the Year (Rising Star), 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 Downbeat Critics' Poll
Arranger of the Year (Rising Star), 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 Downbeat Critics' Poll
Jazz Artist of the Year (Rising Star), 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 Downbeat Critics' Poll
Acoustic Jazz Group of the Year 2004 Downbeat Critics' Poll
*Poll winner

Ben Allison, *Peace Pipe* (Composer/Arranger)

Top 10 CDs of 2002, *New York Times*
Top 10 CDs of 2002, *Coda (Canada)*
Top 10 CDs of 2002, *Jazz Journalist Association*
Top 10 CDs of 2002, *Jazz Review (UK)*