

Michael Curtis Ruiz

Bass/Percussion/Vocals
Arranger - Composer - Tutor

22 Vale House, Fowler Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8XB
01296 427935 (Home) 07751 062966 (Mobile)
mcruiz67@hotmail.com

Education:

Academic Studies in Trinidad, West Indies up to Sixth Form College and Pre-University studies culminating in grades in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, Spanish, French, Additional Mathematics and General Studies.

Personal History:

In 1983, career commenced in Trinidad, West Indies, as a member of The Music Workshop. This organisation was formed by respected Caribbean musician/teacher, Fortunaria Ruiz. Formal studies with Frank Francis (Berkley College Alumnus) Barry Harris (Jazz Legend) and David 'Happy' Williams (Acoustic bassist with Cedar Walton)

Awards/Achievements:

Full Scholarship to Washtenaw Community College (1987), Outstanding Musician (Montreaux Jazz Festival (Detroit-1987), Partial Scholarship to Berklee College Of Music (Boston, USA-1997).

Live/Studio Sessions Include:

Rita Marley (The Wailers), The BBC Orchestra, The Mighty Sparrow (Calypso legend), Joe Higgs (Reggae legend), Ophelia Marie (Guadeloupe folk artiste), Tim Whitehead (U.K. Saxophonist), Neil Angilley (Vanessa Mae, Snow Boy), Arturo Tappin (Jazz Saxophonist), Robert Greenidge (Grover Washington), The Roaring Lion (Calypso legend), Derek Walcott (Writer, Noble Peace Prize Recipient), Wunmi (Nigerian Singer), Jimmy Daniel (Diana Ross, John Cougar Mellencamp), Butch Thomas (Sting, Lenny Kravitz, Jaco Pastorius), Richard Bailey (Incognito, Jeff Beck) and Tony Mason (Ronny Jordan, Brand New Heavies).

Tours and Concerts Include:

Joe Higgs Band (San Francisco USA – 1987); Washtenaw Community College Jazz Orchestra at the Montreaux Jazz Festival (Detroit USA – 1987); Legends of Calypso (UK – 1991); Crop-Over Festival (Barbados – 1996); Caribbean Sunshine Awards (New York – 1998); Trinidad Carnival (1983 – Date); Notting Hill Festival (London - 1991); London Apollo (Johnny Clegg-2001); 606 Club (25th Anniversary-2001); Nelson Mandela Festival (Leeds-U.K.); The Queen 50th Jubilee Festival with The BBC Orchestra (Manchester-2002); Aylesbury Street Festival.

Professional Experience – Arranging, Song Writing and Producing:

Steel Drum Orchestra Arranger (1987-Present). Bands include The Nu-Tones Steel Band, Moods Steel Orchestra and Polytechnic Sixth Form Steel Band.
Song Writer/Collaborator (1983-Present). Various artistes and styles including: Calypso, Soca, Reggae, Latin, Soul, Blues, Jazz, Funk and Fusion.

Professional Experience-Teaching:

Music Tutor (1990-present) in Music Theory and performance. Instruments include: Electric/Acoustic Bass, Electric/Acoustic Guitar, Steel Drums, Functional Piano, Drum Set and various Percussion Instruments. Emphasis on Live Performance with students ranging from beginners to advanced. Specialist on Caribbean Music and Instruments.

Workshops and clinics:

Tony Mason (Remo Drums Endorser) Modern Drum Technique: -Trinidad, 1995 at Caribbean Recording Studio. Terrance Shaw (Harvard University, Washington D.C.) Jazz Guitar and Music Therapy: -Trinidad, 1994.
Fortunia Ruiz (The Workshop) Music Ensemble Studies: Trinidad, 1983-1997
Sean Thomas (Thelonius Monk Institute Of Jazz) Jazz Performance & The History of Jazz Drumming.

Other Skills:

Music Scoring and Transcribing.
Music Store Retail sales and in-store demonstrations.
Electronic repairs and troubleshooting.
Instrument set-ups and general maintenance.

Current Projects:

Recordings: Original music with ZAVANNA. An ensemble co-founded by Felix Ruiz (Keyboardist/Vocalist), Jason Baptiste (steel-drummer/percussionist) and Michael C. Ruiz.

Sessions/Gigs: Various Function bands, Butch Thomas Band, James Manders Latin Jazz Band, Neil Anguilly Trio, Simon Taylor Trio and Frank Williams' South African Jazz Quintet.