

## **Tony Dagradi**

---

74 Egret St.  
1637  
New Orleans, LA 70124

Phone: (504) 282-

### **Education:**

Master of Fine Arts, Tulane University, New Orleans, 1988-90.  
Bachelor of Music, Loyola University, New Orleans, 1985-86.  
Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA, 1970-72.

### **Special Studies:**

Concentrated studies in Saxophone with: Edward Jordan, Andy McGhee, Pepper Adams, Joe D'addario.  
Concentrated studies in Composition and Arranging with: Phil Wilson, Herb Pomeroy, Jerry Coker, David Baker, Billy Byers.  
Concentrated studies in Piano with: Tony Aless.

### **Teaching Experience and Related Activities:**

Loyola University, Associate Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies 1990- .  
Tulane University, Instructor of Music Theory, 1987-90.  
Loyola University, One year sabbatical position, Instructor of Saxophone, Improvisation and Ensembles, 1987-88.  
Director of the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center's Jazz Repertory Orchestra, 1990- .  
Director of the "Tulane Contemporary Jazz Series", modern improvisational music in a chamber setting, 1989-90.  
Guest Artist/Lecturer at numerous Universities and Arts Organizations, including Louisiana State University, Berklee College of Music, Mobile Jazz Society, Indiana University, University of Texas-Austin, Baton Rouge Jazz Society, Old Town School of Folk Music (Chicago), Wallace Community College (Selma), The Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Copenhagen)..  
Selmer Clinician, 1993- , numerous workshops including Musictech, St. Paul, MN, Ft. Walton Beach HS, Northwestern State University, Mississippi Music, Jackson, MS, Evanston Township High School, June-teenth Festival-Symposium, St. Louis, MO, Jazz Brevard, City College of San Francisco, Webster University, Edgewood College Madison, WI.  
Director of Jazz Workshop sponsored by the Contemporary Arts Center, 1982.

### **Awards:**

"Best Contemporary Jazz Group" & "Best Jazz Recording"(Astral Project), Offbeat, 2002  
"Best Contemporary Jazz Group" (Astral Project), Offbeat, 2001  
"Best Contemporary Jazz Group" (Astral Project) Big Easy Awards, 1999  
"Recording of the Year" (Astral Project) Big Easy Awards, 1999  
"Best Saxophonist, Best Contemporary Jazz Group & Best Recording" Offbeat, 1997  
"Best Saxophonist" & "Best Contemporary Jazz Group" (Astral Project) Offbeat, 1996

“Best Saxophonist” & “Best Contemporary Jazz Group” (Astral Project) Offbeat, 1995  
“Best Saxophonist” & “Best Contemporary Jazz Group” (Astral Project) Offbeat, 1994  
“Record of the Year” (Astral Project) Big Easy Awards, 1994  
“Best Contemporary Jazz Group” (Astral Project) Cognac Hennessy Jazz Search, 1992  
“Best Contemporary Jazz Group” (Astral Project) Big Easy Awards, 1992

**Instructional CDs:**

“Scale Studies For Improvisation,” Saxophone Journal, Vol. 19, No. 3, Nov/Dec 1994.  
“Acoustic Fusion,” Jazz Player, Vol. 1, No. 4, June/July 1994.

**Grants and Fellowships:**

Loyola Marquette Fellowship, 2004  
Louisiana Division of Arts Artist Fellowship, 2000.  
Louisiana Division of the Arts Mini Grant, 1997.  
Musicians for Music, Composition Fellowship, 1986.  
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Grant, 1986.  
National Endowment for the Arts, Jazz Performance, 1984-85.  
Festival of New Works Fellowship, Contemporary Arts Center, NO, 1984-85.  
Musicians for Music, Composition Fellowship, 1984.  
National Endowment for the Arts, Jazz Composition, 1981-82.

**Publications:**

Essential Scale Studies For Improvisation, Kendor Music, Inc., 1999.  
“Gary Campbell’s Tenor Solo On Spanglish,” Jazz Player, (April 1995).  
“Greg Yasinitsky’s Tenor Solo On A Mode For Joe,” Jazz Player, (February/March 1995).  
“Jeff Holmes’ Trumpet solo from Parker House Stomp,” Jazz Player, (December/January 1994).  
“Lisa’s Da Bossa - Miles Osland’s flute/soprano solo,” Jazz Player, (October/November 1994).  
“Shorty - Jon Metzger’s Vibraphone Solo,” Jazz Player, (August/September 1994).  
“Morning Star - Tony Dagradi’s Soprano Solo,” Jazz Player, (June/July 1994).  
“Down In Front - David Dempsey’s Tenor Solo,” Jazz Player, (April/May 1994).  
“P’s Rough House - Greg Abate’s Alto Solo,” Jazz Player, (February/March 1994).  
“Longhorn - Mel Martin’s Tenor Solo,” Jazz Player, (December 1993).  
“Reharmonization Techniques,” Saxophone Journal, (January/February 1995).  
“Back To Basics - Part II,” Saxophone Journal, (September/October 1994).  
“Back To Basics - Part I,” Saxophone Journal, (May/June 1994).  
“Two & Three Part Writing, Part II,” Saxophone Journal, (January/February 1994).  
“Two & Three Part Writing, Part I,” Saxophone Journal, (September/October 1993).  
“Amazing Grace,” Saxophone Journal, (May/June 1993).  
“The Ellington Effect, Part II,” Saxophone Journal, (January/February 1993).  
“The Ellington Effect, Part I,” Saxophone Journal, (September/October 1992).  
“Linear Compositional Styles Of Charlie Parker,” Saxophone Journal, (May/June 1992).  
“Linear Compositional Styles Of Jazz Artists,” Saxophone Journal, (January/February 1992).

### **Professional Experience:**

- Leader and founder of Astral Project, a progressive jazz quintet which has been a mainstay of the New Orleans music scene for over twenty years. This ensemble has made three highly acclaimed recordings and actively performs at Jazz festivals throughout the USA and Europe.
- Leader and founder of the Tony Dagradi Trio; two recordings and numerous appearances locally and abroad.
- Leader and founder of the New Orleans Saxophone Ensemble; one recording and numerous appearances in the New Orleans area and a European tour (1984).
- Director of the Ellington Repertory Ensemble, which has premiered several of the composer's major works at the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans.
- Leader and founder of the Astral Orchestra, a ten piece Jazz ensemble which performs adventurous compositions and arrangements drawing upon the entire spectrum of the Jazz tradition.
- Member of the Carla Bley Band, 1980-85, including many tours of Europe, Japan and the USA, and four recordings.
- Active in recording theme and background music for many TV and radio formats including USA's "The Big Easy", Kentwood Water, Chef Paul Prudomme cooking shows, WB 38, ABC 26, "The Angela Hill Show", Hibernia Bank, The Louisiana Lottery, LaMarque Ford, Tharp Sontheimer Funeral Homes, Star Casino, K&B Drugs, Ocshner Hospital, Kirschman's Furniture, Whitney Bank and many others.
- Numerous performances with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.
- One recording as a leader for Turnipseed Records.
- One recording as a leader for Line Records.
- One recording as a leader for Rounder Records.
- Three recordings as a leader for Gramavision Records.
- Performed with Professor Longhair, "Father of New Orleans Rhythm and Blues", 1978-80, including tours of Europe, Canada and the USA, and two recordings.
- Featured artist on "Music From New Orleans", BRAVO.
- Featured artist on public television series, "Jazz Now", WYES, New Orleans.
- Featured artist on "Jazz South" radio series.
- Numerous performances recorded for National Public Radio.
- Performed with the following:

Mose Allison	Tony Bennett	James Booker
Nat Adderley	Marvin Gaye	Dr. John
Eddie Harris	Al Grey	Gladys Knight
Bobby McFerrin	Snooks Eaglin	The Meters
Ellis Marsalis	Better Than Ezra	Luther Kent
Cedar Walton	Irma Thomas	George Porter
Dave Liebman	Alan Toussaint	Bobby Previte
Brian Blade	Tommy Ridgely	Stanton Moore
Imina Figerova	Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty	Ramsey McLean
Donald Byrd	Michael Wolf	Scott Goudeau,
Pete Fountain	The Temptations	Woodenhead
Al Hirt	The Four Tops	Larry Sieberth
Norman Connor	Sam and Dave	Jasmine

Synthesis 2000  
Archie Bell  
Isaac Hayes

- Numerous  
performances recorded

for National Public  
Radio.