

Jim Self

Biography

Bassett Hound Music

Jim Self is a Los Angeles free-lance musician. Since 1974 he has worked for all the major Hollywood studios performing for over 1300 motion pictures and hundreds of television shows and records. His solos in major films include John William's scores to Jurassic Park, Home Alone I&II, Hook and was the "Voice of the Mothership" from Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Other solos can be heard in James Horner's Casper and Batteries Not Included, Marc Shaiman's Sleepless in Seattle and in Jerry Goldsmith's score to Dennis the Menace. Recent films include Troy, Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius, Robots, Lemony Snicket, The Legend of Zorro and War of the Worlds, King Kong, Firewall and Eight Below.

Mel Torme, Leon Redbone, Maynard Ferguson, Randy Newman, Bette Midler, Barbara Streisand, Frank Sinatra, Don Ellis, the L.A. Philharmonic, the Pasadena and Pacific Symphonies, and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra are among the many artists and groups with whom he has recorded. He holds principal tuba positions with the Pacific Symphony, Pasadena Symphony and Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and principal tuba/cimbasso in the Los Angeles Opera and Opera Pacific orchestras.

Self was three times voted the Most Valuable Player Award for Tuba by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) and named Emeritus winner in 1987. Jim was the string bass and tuba player with Jon Hendricks in his long running L.A. production of "Evolution of the Blues". In 1983 he produced his first album — Children at Play. It features jazz tuba and harmonica and has received world-wide acclaim. It was chosen by High Fidelity magazine as one of the top ten jazz albums of that year. A second recording, New Stuff (fusion jazz), was released in 1988 on compact disc. Both are on the Discovery-Trend label. His third recording, Tricky Lix, was released in 1990 on the Concord Jazz label featuring jazz greats Gary Foster and Warren Luening. In 1992 an all "classical" C.D. Changing Colors came out on the Summit label. A jazz C.D., The Bassett Hound Blues, with Pete Christlieb was released on d'Note Records in 1997. In 1999 a second "classical" recording The Big Stretch came out on Bassett Hound Records. It features original compositions by Jim and others. That was followed by a CD of folk songs entitled My America with arrangements of American songs by Kim Scharnberg. Jim is assisted by a great band of L.A. studio musicians and plays his new horn — the FLUBA. Then Jim recorded a be-bop CD called

Size Matters with great Tennessee tenor man, Bill Scarlett. Just released is a jazz and strings CD featuring Gary Foster, Pete Christlieb and Dan Higgins. It's title InnerPlay. All of Jim Self's recordings and compositions are available from www.bassethoundmusic.com.

Jim is a past president of T.U.B.A, was on the faculty of the University of Tennessee, and is a former member of The United States Army Band, Washington, D.C. Born in 1943 in Franklin, Pennsylvania, (raised in nearby Oil City), he holds degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Catholic University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California where he teaches tuba and chamber music. In the summers he teaches students at the Henry Mancini Institute, the Music Academy of the West and and is a frequent artist at the prestigious Hamamatsu Wind Festival and Academy in Japan. His primary tuba teachers were William Becker, Harvey Phillips, and Tommy Johnson. Jim has also been the leader of TubaChristmas in Los Angeles since it's beginning in 1976. In March 2003 Jim was given a Distinguished Alumni Award by Indiana University of Pennsylvania — a university wide honor only given to 290 of the more than 100,000 graduates.

Besides his work as a tubist, Self maintains an active doubling career performing on bass trombone, cimbasso, contra-bass trombone, string and electric basses and the Steiner EVI (electronic valve instrument). His latest new instrument is the FLUBA — an original design (picture a tuba-sized flugel horn). It is very unique and is a great solo instrument. Jim Self is also a published composer and arranger. One recent composition for brass quintet and marimba is titled Mo'ments. Jim is the author of the chapter, "Doubling for Tubists", in the Tuba Source Book. His hobby is flying his 1973 Piper Arrow for fun and to sometimes to gigs.

As a solo artist Self performs regularly world wide. His concerts and clinics present an interesting blend of classical and jazz music and represent a wide spectrum of his many experiences as a performer, composer and teacher.

*From:
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