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Brian Lynch, trumpet

Brian Lynch possesses one of the most distinguished resumes in all of jazz. A graduate of two of the jazz worlds most important finishing schools, The Horace Silver Quintet and Art Blakey s Jazz Messengers, he now records and tours the world as a bandleader in his own right, besides being an integral part of the groups of alto legend (and fellow Yamaha artist) Phil Woods and Latin master Eddie Palmieri. Brian has recorded 12 CDs as a leader and well over 100 recordings as a sideman. Brian is an accomplished composer and arranger as well as an acclaimed educator and clinician.

Seeking to share his knowledge with others and to keep in touch with the fundamentals of his art, Lynch has turned increasingly to teaching in recent years. He currently holds faculty positions at New York University and the North Netherlands Conservatory, has taught at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, and has conducted workshops in numerous major institutes of learning, including The Eastman School of Music, Dartmouth University, the University of North Texas, and Columbia University, among many others. Many of today's finest young jazz trumpeters call him a mentor. Brian is proud, but it works both ways: the interchange of ideas between he and the "youngbloods" challenges him to keep it real and keep practicing! On February 11, 2007, Brian earned the Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year Grammy for his album, "The Brian Lynch/Eddie Palmieri Project - Simpatico"

Tiger Okoshi, trumpet

Toru "Tiger" Okoshi was born just outside of Osaka in 1950, the year of the Tiger. As a child he was devoted to painting. When he was 13, a friend took him to see Louis Armstrong, who was touring in Japan. "He hit me too strong," recalls Okoshi. He took up the trumpet and immersed himself in jazz. In 1972, after he graduated from the prestigious Kwansei Gakuin University with a bachelor of commerce, he married and came to the United States for his honeymoon. "We took Greyhound all the way across the country from Los Angeles to Boston," Okoshi recalls. "The beauty of it all gave me energy and fire. I knew I couldnt go back." When they arrived in Boston, they sold their return tickets, paid the tuition at Berklee College of Music and found a studio apartment. He started to practice by the Charles River, hoping someone would hear him and ask him to join a band - that happened. Okoshi graduated summa cum laude from Berklee in 1975. Word of his abilities spread and he began assembling a lengthy résumé. In 1974 he performed with the Mike Gibbs Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York; in 1975 he toured the United States with the Buddy Rich Orchestra; and from 1976 to 1978 he taught at Berklee. Okoshi has appeared in numerous jazz festivals around the world. His fusion group, "Tigers Baku" appeared on the cruise liner Queen Elizabeth 2 in August 1998 for the Newport Jazz Festival at Sea. Tiger is currently a Professor at the Berklee College of Music.