



Edward A. Partyka

Ed Partyka is a composer, arranger and conductor and plays bass trombone and tuba. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, he received a BA degree from Northern Illinois University before moving to Germany in 1990. He gained a Master's degree in jazz trombone at the Cologne University of Music, where he was also a member of the G.E.M.A. Jazz Composers' Workshop led by Bob Brookmeyer. In 2000 he received an award from the ASCAP/IAJE Commission in honour of Louis Armstrong's centenary. He won 1st prize at the 1998 NDR Music Prize (Hamburg), 1st prize at the Jazz Composers' Alliance 1998 Julius Hemphill Composition Awards (Boston), and he was a finalist in the 1996 HR Emerging Composers Competition (Frankfurt).

Ed has toured and recorded with the Bob Brookmeyer New Art Orchestra, the Vienna Art Orchestra, Carla Bley, the WDR Big Band, the NDR Big Band, Mnozil Brass, Gansch & Roses and the Roman Schwaller Nonet. He currently leads the Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra. From 1999 to 2006 he was musical director of the Concert Jazz Orchestra Vienna, and from 2000 to 2007 he was the conductor of the Sunday Night Orchestra. Ed Partyka has appeared as guest conductor with the Danish Radio Big Band, the HR Big Band, the NDR Big Band, the RIAS Big Band, the RTV Big Band Slovenia, the UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra, the Summit Jazz Orchestra, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, the Lucerne Jazz Orchestra and the Generations Festival Big Band. He has also played with the Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra, the Aarhus Jazz Orchestra, the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw, the Concept Art Orchestra, Milan Svoboda's Prague Big Band, the Oslo Workshop Big Band, the Graz Composers Orchestra and the German National Youth Jazz Orchestra (BuJazzO). His most intensive work in recent years was with the Frankfurt Radio Big Band (HR Big Band), where he directed projects in a wide variety of styles and genres. During his tenure with the HR Big Band, he arranged and conducted projects with major jazz performers Robben Ford, Theo Bleckmann, China Moses, Fay Claassen and Dena Derose, Fado singer Ana Moura, the electronic jazz group nuBox, Brazilian singer Fabiana Cozza, rock-blues artist Chuck Leavell, pop band Sunrise Avenue and German pop star Tim Bendzko.

His other noteworthy artistic activities in recent years have included arranging and conducting a programme for Eliane Elias and the Danish Radio Big Band (2018), and conducting the UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra with guest artist Lizz Wright (2019).

Ed Partyka is currently the artistic director and principal conductor of the UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra in Finland. Among his most recent projects during his tenure as principal conductor were his own composition "Overcast", "New Jewish Folk Songs" with Efrat Alony, "The Jazz Heart of Soul" with China Moses and "Point Less" with Ola Onabule.

Ed Partyka has performed on over 60 albums, eleven of which appeared under his own name. Prominent among them are the recordings of his Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra, the Vienna Art Orchestra, the WDR Big Band and Bob Brookmeyer's New Art Orchestra.



Partyka is also active in the area of jazz education. He has given workshops and master classes at universities and conservatoires throughout Europe, and lectured at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. From 2008 to 2010, he was visiting professor of jazz composition at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland.

Ed Partyka is currently professor of jazz theory and composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, and he teaches composition at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. He also has strong links with the Australian jazz scene: in the last 20 years he has lectured at Monash University in Melbourne and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In 2006, he was Artist in Residence at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), and in 2005 and 2012 he worked as guest artist and tutor with the West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO).

Ed Partyka will take up his position as principal conductor of the Zurich Jazz Orchestra in autumn 2021. "I've known the ZJO for many years", he says, "and I've worked with the Big Band several times – so I'm really looking forward to being able to work regularly with the orchestra." He says it will give him the opportunity to further develop the sound and the musical character of the ZJO. "I hope to contribute to the band's artistic development. The collaboration will give me a unique opportunity to compose music that will show off the independent soloists and the sound of the whole ensemble to their very best advantage."

Ed Partyka is happy to answer questions and give interviews:

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Photos and an excerpt of a concert with the Zurich Jazz Orchestra conducted by Ed Partyka can be found at: www.zjo.ch/projekte/ed_partyka.

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