



GIANNI BARDARO

EXTENDED BIOGRAPHY

"Alto sax legends like Cannonball Adderley, Jackie McLean, Sonny Simmons and many others will forever be remembered and recognized for their distinguished delivery – and Bardaro is not one to rest on his laurels either, demonstrating jazz veteran-like creativity while utilizing a sweet yet searing tone on alto, his horn of choice".

by Laurence Donohue-Greene, Managing Editor The New York City Jazz Records

"Bardaro is a highly gifted alto saxophonist. He possesses both a beautifully haunting, poetic voice as well as fine technical chops,...his resonant sound intrigues rather than repels. His improvisational style speaks of statement and logical embellishment. Ideas are examined and expanded with superb rhythmic and melodic air."

All•About•Jazz by Nicholas F. Mondello

The quotes above, by prominent jazz reviewers, gave a clear picture of the artistic essence of Gianni Bardaro, as improviser and composer: Sound and Innovation rooted into Tradition.

Artist of the prestigious American jazz label VERVE RECORDS, Gianni is author of 6 albums. the latest 3 signed by the major label Universal Music Group: "Next Stop" (Verve/Universal) recorded in Italy, "Unfolding Routes" (EmArcy/Universal) recorded in Copenhagen (DK) and "Soul Blueprint" (EmArcy/Universal) recorded in York (USA). Italian magazine JAZZIT awarded the 3 albums, respectively in 2012, 2013 and 2016, as among the best 100 recordings of the year. Recognized by the international jazz press as a creative and original composer, as well as a unique haunting tone saxophonist, Gianni is also indefatigable, sharing his knowledge about the healing property of sound giving concerts, conferences and workshops in many different countries with his project "Intentional Sounds".

Gianni's history is as varied as it is distinguished. Born in Italy to a drummer-playing father, Gianni's musical skills were nurtured and naturally encouraged from an early age. Already at the age of 11, he began playing in local bar bands and in a traditional Italian "banda". By then, Gianni discovered the Be-Bop language listening to a vinyl of Charlie Parker and Dizzie Gillespie. Jazz became so, an irreversible love accompanying his journey in music. Those are also the years approaching music composition, where Gianni creates and shapes the first melodies, experimenting with chord progressions and simple polyphonic lines.

At 15, he began studies of classical saxophone at the Conservatorium of Music "O. Respighi" in Latina, where he played with the Conservatorium Jazz Big Band, as well as with various jazz, R&B and soul bands. At the same time he deepened the study of jazz with his saxophone teacher Mauro Zazzarini. The Conservatorium would grant him two scholarships for artistic merits and five years later he graduates with best honors. In those years, Gianni also studied privately jazz composition and improvisation with the legendary saxophonist Bob Mover and the american bopper guitarist Agostino Di Giorgio. While attending numerous seminars and workshops by the likes of "Accademia Romana di Jazz" with Fabrizio Sferra, Danilo Rea, Giovanni Tommaso and Maurizio Gianmarco, he participates at the International Seminars "Arts Academy Istituzione Sinfonica di Roma".



There, at the age of 18, he plays with the Plovdiv Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert for and with one of the most influential Italian composers of the twentieth century, Goffredo Petrassi. In 1992, Gianni started his first jazz quartet as a leader, the "Railway Station Jazz" followed by the "Afro Jazz Quartet" with which he won the International Jazz Competition "Baronissi Jazz", participating in the New Talent Category. Two years later he earned a 2nd place award for his performance with the Orchestra Jazz a Majella (JAM) in the Professional Category.

In 1999 he enrolled at the Conservatorium of Music "S. Pietro a Majella" of Naples, to perfect the studies of Jazz Composition, Big Band Arrangement and Jazz Improvisation. Gianni graduates in Jazz Music 3 years later with top honors. The years spent in Naples are characterized by major collaborations with prominent Italian musicians and in December 2000 he starts a project based on originals, "Gianni Bardaro Sinesthetic Jazz". He is soon inspired by the Synesthesia phenomenon and writes the jazz ballad "Song for Dicembre". The song is early published and distributed in Europe by the English company PHILIPS with an edition of 20.000 copies.

With "Sinesthetic Jazz" he stretches out his skills as arranger and composer and focuses to develop an own sound on the saxophone. The next year Gianni obtains a major grant by GAI "Young Italian Artists Association" and he is invited to attend 1 year master at the Rytmisk Musikkonservatorium of Copenhagen, improving further studies in Composition and Jazz Improvisation. In this Conservatorium, he studies under the guidance of acclaimed Danish musicians such as Lars Møller, Jesper Bodilsen, Morten Lund, Niels Thybo, Christina Von Bülow, Thomas Agergaard, Birthe Skou and attends seminars with musicians of international importance like the cubans Cesar Lopez and Alvaro Collado, members of bands such as Irakere and Los Van Van, Andres Alen, Emilio Morales, Jorge Reyes, Luis Valdes Chicoy Martha Duarte, Francisco Padron, Girardo Piloto, Luis Abreu Hernandez, Cesar (Pupy) Pedroso, Alexander Abreu Manresa, Enrique Pla, Luis "Luisito" Abreu.

Although Gianni focuses on jazz, during the Scandinavian period he intensified and expanded the horizons of his eclectic activity producing Pop, Latin, Electronic and Techno music. As a producer and a songwriter, he collaborated with several record labels, among them the Warner Bros Italy Chappell. As a performer in this specific field, he played for the Danish Royal Family and for the Danish public television channel DR2. Also, he has elated dance-music audiences far and wide in hundreds of exclusive night events in Scandinavian night clubs and in venues such as Copenhagen Fashion Week, Stockholm Fashion Week, performing live with internationally renown DJs such as Deejay Hones (USA), DJ Hipp (Greece), Ian Bang (DK), Kenneth Riis (DK), DJ Tim Andresen (SW) DJ Andrea Leonardo Martini (IT), DJ Bari (El Salvador) and many others. The improved experimentation with electronic music leads Gianni to some important collaborations such as with the English label "32bit Records" which released the EP "Scandango" and with the father of electronic music Kirk Degiorgio, which makes a remix of Gianni's EP "ElectrOneBar", published by Modern Activism Records "Cultura elettronica".

From 2004 to 2006, Gianni participated as a leader in several International Jazz Festivals and after a couple of years of development, the open and traveling project "Gianni Bardaro Sinesthetic Jazz", receives international recognition with the publication of the CD "Overflow" under the Danish label Gateway Music.



The album receives prompt acclaim from experts who emphasize the originality of Gianni compositions, the tight bands interplay and the singularity of his approach on saxophone. "Overflow" is broadcasted on many radio stations around the world and it was featured for one month on all Hawaiian Airlines flights directed to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Las Vegas and Sydney, on the Midnight Jazz Café 's Show on Hawaiian Public Radio. 2008 is a continuous crescendo and a very significant year. The positive feedback from the album "Overflow" takes Gianni to participate in further international jazz festivals and major events. He is invited to participate as special guest from Denmark at the "Balticness Jazz" Project founded and promoted by the Community of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia. With this project, he has the opportunity to play with the "Riga Groove Electro" at Copenhagen JazzHouse and later on at the Opera House in Riga playing for the presence of the Prime Ministers of the Baltic Countries and together with jazz performers among the most acclaimed in the Baltics such as Neff Irizarry, Villu Veski, Deniss Pashkevich, So a Rubina, Jukka Eskola, Sebastian Studnitzky, Seth Sharp, Liudas Mockunas, Erling Wicklund, Jan Freicher, David Goloshekin, and Karl-Martin Almqvist. The Italian Public channel RAI Radio 3, in the program Jazz Suite, broadcast a live concert recorded during the Italian tour with Sinestetic Jazz. The CD Overflow was also republished by Jazzengine label in Italy and distributed in attached with the magazine Jazzit. In September he participated as a leader at the international jazz festivals in Colombia and Panama, sharing the stage with artists such as Ron Carter, Mike Stern, Arturo Sandoval, Toquinho, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Chano Dominguez, Erik Truffaz, John Benitez. A month later, he was invited once again by the CBSS to perform at the 10th anniversary of CBSS – Council of the Baltic Sea States in Stockholm.

In the following years, besides keeping touring and collaborating with several relevant projects, Gianni starts a crossover (Jazz-Classical) project as co-leader. Soon the debut CD "Phil Woods Sonata" is published for the "Philology Jazz Records". The album contains the revised and newly recorded 97 edition of the Alto Sax and Piano Sonata, a "classic" cross-over work by the jazz-legend Phil Woods who was personally interested in the re-publication of the album, defining the interpretation of his Sonata as "...stunning and definitive" in the album's liner-notes. These peculiarities will bring the crossover project on tour in many countries. Bardaro has played as guest in many international music festivals worldwide: Denmark, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Poland, Colombia, Panama, Santo Domingo, Spain, India, Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, Latvia and United States; as well worked and recorded with international projects artists including: Randy Brecker, Bob Mover, Oscar Stagnaro, Lamy Istrefi, Samuel Torres, Jason Lindner, Deniss Pashkevich, Kike Purizaga, Jesper Bodilsen, Bruno Tommaso, Maria Pia De Vito, Pietro Condorelli, Pippo Matino, Adama Bilorou Dembele, Marzouk Mejiri, Marwan Fakir, Alberto Capelli, Aldo Bassi, Agostino Di Giorgio, David Boato, Pierluigi Villani, Francesco Villani, Salvatore Tranchini, Pino Iodice, Pietro Iodice, Orient West Choir, Balticness Project, Riga Groove Electro, Massimo Morganti, Cristiano Arcelli. Currently, Gianni lives between Colombia, Italy and Denmark, he is involved in many jazz projects as Leader and as Sideman, touring worldwide and preparing the publishing of his next work.