



Joey Berkley: Educator

"As a teacher I believe in trying to develop a discipline in each musician that focuses on mastering the fundamentals. From beginner to advanced, the musician maintains this endeavor in the overall pursuit of excellence-which is never-ending. I feel that the mastery of good technique (tone, finger execution, reading and theory) and the search of always trying to find ways to improve are essential to expressing artistry whether the music is classical, jazz or rock."

Tenor saxophonist Joey Berkley shares his musical talents by teaching and has become a woodwind/jazz instructor in high demand. His busy schedule includes being the **Woodwind Specialist** for the music departments of **Fox Lane Middle and High Schools**. As an **artist-in-residence**, Mr. Berkley is also the **Fox Lane HS Jazz Band Director**, plus the **Fox Lane MS Jazz Band Director** that performed at the **2013 All-County HS Jazz Festival**-a first for any MS band. Adding to all of this, Joey holds an **artist-in-residence** position at **Woodlands HS** guiding students through the fundamentals of jazz-improv, reading, style and interpretation. The recording artist and bandleader of the JB4, Four Good Reeds and F.Rex maintains a busy **private teaching** schedule as well.

Serving as the **Artistic/Educational Director** of the **Westchester Jazz Orchestra** (2003- 2007) Joey was responsible for the workshops and residencies WJO conducted in schools by developing the curriculum and organizing an approach that reaches out to students, inspires them and deepens their appreciation for jazz.

In 2009 Joey released his first educational DVD entitled "**All Things Saxophone**" which focuses on the fundamentals of sound and technique plus jazz improvisation basics. Earning praises from saxophonist on all levels, this DVD is enjoying success worldwide.

Mr. Berkley has been nominated for the **2014 GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy's first-ever Music Educator Award!**

Private Teaching Focus (woodwinds):

Embouchure: This development is CRUCIAL. It affects everything- timbre, intonation, rhythm etc.

Fingers: Fast or slow, moving from note to note(s) it has to be precise, in any style of music.

Reading: In order to become a good independent reader you must understand the mathematical relationships in music i.e. counting, sub-dividing, beat/bar recognition, time signatures etc. This applies to all musical styles- Classical, Jazz, Funk, Rock, Latin etc.

Theory: All musicians must have knowledge of music theory. What you are playing sounds better if you understand why.

Jazz Improvisation: A balance of theory-based fundamentals and listening. This includes transcribing solos and how to apply them. Also, interpreting a melody and understanding stylistic differences in jazz.



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Workshop/Masterclass:

Musicians teaching Musicians...

The role of **Mouthpiecemusic LLC** is to integrate performance with education. Rather than the traditional student-teacher relationship we relate to students as fellow musicians at various levels of development. Students are musicians and musicians are students.

Mouthpiecemusic is based on the premise that performing and teaching are mutually beneficial. By coming off the stage into the classroom each band is able to first inspire students, challenge them as musicians and then give each a sense of empowerment. Teaching by demonstrating is the most effective way to reach a student as much as motivate the professional musician to continue growing.

The Joey Berkley Quartet; Funkasaurus Rex; Four Good Reeds:

These performing groups are effective instruments for teaching by conducting a variety of workshops, each with a different focus: Ensemble precision; Jazz Improvisation; Interpretation; The Rhythm Section.

Joey believes that to be an effective teacher you must be able to do what you instruct on any level whether it's one on one, in a sectional or a full band "lesson". During his tenure as the Artistic and Educational Director of WJO, being invited to work with a student jazz ensemble or run a jazz band festival meant WJO offered itself as a model to guide the students and demonstrate how a first-rate band performs-from the ensemble precision to an exciting solo. The groups contained within **Mouthpiecemusic LLC** also offer this up-close approach inspiring the students first, making the teaching more meaningful.

"As a music educator, Joey has multiple strengths. He is comfortable with rehearsing a woodwind class, giving an individual lesson, coaching students in jazz improvisation or leading a big band rehearsal. Joey is an outstanding artist/educator who offers his knowledge of jazz, woodwind pedagogy and a love of teaching to the students of Fox Lane High School." **Dr. Paul Tooker, BCSD Coordinator of Performing Arts (Fox Lane HS/MS)**

"Mr. Berkley has the ability to instruct in an enjoyable way while managing to teach all of the crucial elements of making music" **D.Carroll, Boston University music graduate (former student)**

"I finished watching your DVD yesterday. In a word: fantastic. I'm already applying your lessons to my playing. The tone production section was exactly what I needed, and I saw immediate results after applying your techniques. You have given me solutions to some problems I've been trying to solve for years..."
S.Newbury, Saxophonist

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