

Biography

Saxophonist Dave Wilson is a solo recording artist, band leader, composer, and educator in the Central PA/Delaware Valley area. He maintains a prolific venue and festival schedule as both a leader and sideman. He is highly regarded for his maturity of tone and passion and enthusiasm in his performances and recordings on both tenor and soprano saxophones.

As the leader of his quartet, Wilson and his band mates are known for their exciting improvisations, creative individualistic compositions, and unique arrangements of standards. He studied with saxophonists Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano, Bill Barron, Ralph Lalama, Tim Price, Glenn Guidone and Tom Strohmman.

Dave has released eight solo CDs to date: *Through The Time* (Dreamscape Records 2002), *My Time* (Dreambox Media 2005), *Spiral* (Summit Records 2010), *There Was Never* (ZOHO Music 2016), *One Night at Chris'* (Dave Wilson Music 2019), *Stretching Supreme* (Dave Wilson Music 2022), *Live at Silvana* (Dave Wilson Music 2024) and *When Even Goes East* (Dave Wilson Music 2026).

Each of Wilson's albums have charted for weeks at Jazz Week and Roots Radio Report as well as garnered reviews in major publications.

Through The Time received airplay on over 30 jazz stations nationwide including WRTI-FM in Philadelphia. *My Time* garnered favorable reviews in The Philadelphia Inquirer, All About Jazz, and Jazz Times and is a favorite at many nationwide stations peaking at #55 at Jazz Week. *Spiral* was reviewed in JazzTimes and given 3 1/2 star in Downbeat. *One Night at Chris'* was chosen by WRTI-FM as the "Jazz Album of the Week".

Wilson's fourth CD *There Was Never* confirmed the saxophonists place on the scene with airplay in 40 different markets nationally and for 6 weeks was in the top 50 at Jazz Weekly's Jazz Radio Countdown. The track "Cassidy" was #13 in WRTI-FM countdown for the top 100 in 2016. The CD was reviewed in the 2016 February issue of Downbeat Magazine and nominated for a Grammy.

Bill Milkowski wrote of *One Night at Chris'*, "savvy adaptations of familiar pop tunes, filtered through a distinctly jazzy prism...The crackling intensity of *One Night at Chris'* is a testament to what can happen on the bandstand on any given night. And this was a particularly good night indeed." The album made WRTI-FM's "Jazz Album of the Week" in August of 2019.

Wilson's 2022 release *Stretching Supreme* was included in Bill Milkowski's top 12 Coltrane inspired albums in his Substack column.

Dave Wilson's latest release *When Even Goes East* (Dave Wilson Music 2026) pays a nod to his early days in New York. On this, his 8th solo album, his compositions and arrangements take you on a ride with Jesse Green-piano, Evan Gregor-bass, and Daniel Gonzalez -drums, with special guest Lenny Castro. The journey visits such pop and rock classics as Jackson Browne's "These Days", The Grateful Dead's "Eyes of the World", Jimmy Webb's "Adios" and "Wichita Lineman", Lennon and McCartney's "The Fool On The Hill", Jimi Hendrix's "Fire", and four Wilson originals.

Bill Milkowski writes of the CD, "...a versatile quartet that can swing ferociously on uptempo burners, create a gently alluring vibe on ballads and provide a persuasive pulse on Latin-tinged numbers. Wilson blows with authority on both tenor and soprano, fueling four originals while putting his own stamp on familiar tunes by Jimmy Webb, Jerry Garcia, Jackson Browne, Jimi Hendrix, and the Beatles."

Michael Doherty's Music Log wrote, "...immediately grabs us, creating an alluring atmosphere and taking us in some interesting directions. His saxophone creates a world I want to check out, want to live in for a while. It promises some excitement, some unusual characters, some fun...a beautiful air of melancholy to it at moments, sometimes reaching out, sometimes turning inward."

Thierry De Clemensat, Jazz Journalists Association member and writer at Paris-Move.com states, "...his most compelling, and, paradoxically, at his most restrained...unfolds in half-tones rather than bold primary colors, offering moments of striking originality alongside stretches...the outset, it becomes clear that the issue is not performance quality, far from it—but artistic coherence."

When not leading his own band Wilson has performed with Mark Soskin (Sonny Rollins, NY Voices), Jim Ridl (Pat Martino), Steve Rudolph, Kirk Reese, Tim Warfield, bassists Frank Gravis, Blake Meister, and drummers Steve Varner, Bill Goodwin and Marko Marcinko to name a few. He has led the Canal Street Hot 6, a well-known Traditional/New Orleans with the trumpet master Ben Mauger and is founding member of The New Rampart Street Ramblers.

Wilson is also a long-time member of the legendary trumpet master Dave Stahl's Sacred Orchestra and Dave Stahl Big Band. With the big band he played alongside Wynton Marsalis, Tom Harrell, Lou Soloff, Steve Marcus, Conrad Herwig, Gary Smulyan, Steve Smith to name a few.

Wilson performed steadily in such cities as New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington DC and Baltimore. He made regular appearances at the famed Chris' Jazz Cafe in Philadelphia and at Washington D.C.'s Ronald Reagan Plaza. His quartet has appeared at The Berk's Jazz Fest, Bethlehem Musikfest, Philadelphia's Jazz Bridge "Neighborhood Concert Series", JazzFest in York, PA, The Manassas, Virginia Wine & Jazz Festival, Pittsburgh Cider & Mead Festival, Baltimore's Artscape to name a few. Dave has also taught master classes at colleges and universities.

When off stage, Dave teaches woodwinds and also owns and operates Dave Wilson Musical Instruments, a business focusing on the buying and selling of both vintage and contemporary, professional and student, woodwind and brass musical instruments.

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