



Bob Andrews has logged over 40 years of musical training and performance experience in a wide variety of genres and ensembles. Born in a small farming community in northern Iowa into a family of musicians, he was immersed in classical and church music in his earliest years and studied a variety of instruments growing up, including piano, violin, clarinet, and percussion. He picked up the electric bass at age 12 and has been essentially self-taught his entire career. During junior high and high school, he performed with numerous instrumental and vocal groups, toured three summers with a contemporary Christian group, and began playing upright bass. As a sophomore, Bob was named Outstanding Bass Player and Outstanding Overall Rhythm Section Player in the 1976 North Central Iowa Bandmasters Association (NCIBA) Jazz Festival. In 1977 he was named his school's Musician of the Year and awarded Purdue University's Hall of Fame Band Honors, and in 1978 he continued a family tradition, joining his two brothers and two sisters in winning the John Philip Sousa Band Award.

After graduating from high school in 1978, Bob pursued and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in performance, composition, and jazz studies at Coe College, a private liberal arts college in Cedar Rapids, IA, studying jazz with internationally acclaimed jazz and classical trumpet innovator and educator Paul Smoker (*an adjudicator at the 1976 NCIBA Jazz Festival*). As a freshman Bob was awarded the Barbara Douglas Dixon Music Composition Prize, and his junior and senior jazz recitals featured mostly original music, including several solo electric bass compositions. In addition to becoming a fixture in the local jazz scene, Bob also played string bass with the Cedar Rapids Symphony and Chamber Orchestras during his college tenure. He also made regular appearances in the local recording and musical theater scenes, and was bassist for the Miss Iowa Pageant orchestra for three years.

Also while at Coe, Bob had the distinguished honor of studying and performing with such legendary jazz artists as drummer Jack DeJohnette, guitarist John Abercrombie, woodwind prodigy Anthony Braxton, and the avant-garde trio AIR, as well as renowned L.A. session keyboardist Mike Boddicker, as part of the annual jazz festivals sponsored by Coe College's chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a men's international professional music fraternity, of which Bob remains a member.

After graduating from Coe in 1983, Bob toured extensively throughout the United States and Canada with various pop/rock, Top 40, country, and funk bands, and recorded radio jingles in various Midwestern and Western markets. In 1984 he took a brief pause from touring to soak up the vibrant New York City jazz scene. From 1985-89 he was based out of Oklahoma City, where he became a fixture in the jazz and pop music scenes, and played local concerts with touring artists such as the legendary pop/R&B group The Platters. In 1989 he relocated to Dallas, TX to join one of the top country bands in the region, playing the Dallas/Ft. Worth club scene and opening concerts for country artists Garth Brooks, Toby Keith, George Strait, Alabama, the Dixie Chicks, Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, Brooks & Dunn, and others.

In 1994 Bob moved to Anchorage, AK, where he has become one of the most in-demand bassists in the Anchorage jazz and Latin music scenes, performing regularly with the highly acclaimed John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet since 1995; Hector Ortiz & El Combo Tropicale Latino; jazz pianist/singer Melissa "Jazzmom" Fischer; local Air Force musicians; Latin opera singer Wilberto Vasquez; and other local jazz and Latin artists. He has recorded with John Damberg's Latin Jazz Quintet, jazz guitarist Joe Craig, Latin singer/percussionist Hector Ortiz, and the nationally known Alaska Native group Pamyua. As a regular performer with the nonprofit Alaska Jazz Workshop, Bob has been the bassist of choice for local concert appearances by touring internationally acclaimed jazz artists Barney McClure (piano), Allison Miller (drums), Michael Davis (trombone), John Stowell (guitar), Denis DiBlasio (sax), Rick Mancini (drums), and Peggy Stern (piano). Bob has also completed partial degree requirements for his Master's Degree in Music Education at the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

An extremely versatile, well-rounded, and seasoned veteran performer, Bob's influences cover a wide spectrum, including jazz, classical, various Latin styles, R&B, funk, rock, blues, gospel, and folk music. Bob's future plans include continued local appearances, private teaching, and recording his own music.

Artists

John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet
Melissa "Jazzmom" Fischer
Hector Ortiz & El Combo Tropicale Latino
Wilberto Vasquez
Various local and touring jazz & Latin artists

Venues

Alaska Jazz Workshop/University of Alaska
Anchorage Performing Arts Center • Anchorage Museum
Sullivan's • Roscoe's • Club Soraya
Organic Oasis • Noble's Diner • Juneteenth Festival
Latin Music Festival • Girdwood Forest Fair

Discography

Mike Engberg: "*Machyngbird*" (1980)
Hector Ortiz: "Feliz Navidad"– "*Christmas in Alaska*" (2001)
Joe Craig: "*Karma Helix*" (2003)
Pamyua: "*Caught in the Act*" (2003)
JoMaLa (John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet): "*Azure*" (2005)

Equipment

MTD (Michael Tobias) custom 5-string fretless
Custom Yamaha TRB-4P 4-string
Custom '72 Fender Jazz Bass
Eden Navigator preamp • QSC power amp
BagEnd speaker cabinets