

Reggie Watkins- Trombonist / Arranger / Band Leader

Reggie Watkins was born and raised in West Virginia and has played trombone for eighteen years. After attending West Virginia University for Jazz Performance he moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to become a staple on the music scene. There he began playing and recording with various groups such as The Roger Humphries Big Band, The Kevin Frieson Ensemble, Dr. Zoot, and many others. In 1999 Watkins joined Maynard Ferguson as Trombonist, Musical Director, and Arranger for the legendary jazz trumpet player. On the road with Ferguson, Watkins has performed thousands of gigs and educational workshops worldwide and as a result has a strong fan base. Reggie is featured as Trombonist and Arranger on the 2001 Maynard Ferguson / Diane Schuur release "Swingin' For Schuur". In 2003 Reggie was selected as one of only eleven semi-finalists chosen to perform at the prestigious 2003 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition in Washington D.C. There he performed with an all-star jazz group consisting of pianist Eric Reed, bassist Bob Hurst, and drummer Carl Allen. In 2004 Watkins released his first solo CD as Band Leader, Trombonist, Composer, Arranger, and Producer entitled A-LIST. The album features sixteen musicians, all original compositions and arrangements, and is part of The Maynard Ferguson Presents series. Reggie can be heard performing most often with Maynard Ferguson, The Temptations, and his group, The Reggie Watkins Band. Check out The Reggie Watkins Band on there forthcoming DVD, "Day One", Live at Twins Jazz Club in Washington D.C., set for release in May 2006.

Partial Discography:

- 2006 - **Maynard Ferguson – MF6** (*Producer/Trombone/Arranger*)
- 2005 - **3 Apples High - Metrobotic**
- 2004 - **Reggie Watkins - A-List** (JiveFam Records)
- 2003 - **Roger Humphries Big Band - Don't Give Up**
- 2001 - **Diane Schuur / Maynard Ferguson - Swingin' for Schurr** (Concord Records)
- 2000 - **Michael Fienstien / Maynard Ferguson - Big City Rhythms** (Concord Records)
- 1998 - **Dr. Zoot - Ghosts of Swing** (Hepcat Records)
- 1996 - **Kevin Frieson Ensemble - Ebony Tears**

2/22/2005

Online Trombone Journal

Writer: KELLY MEAMAN
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A-List: A Review (excerpt)

It was a pleasure to hear and review this fine freshman production effort by virtuoso trombonist Reggie Watkins, a musician with a full arsenal of tools at his disposal: an extensive (but not overly used) range, beautiful tone, terrific melodic concepts and excellent compositional and arranging chops. Even more impressive is his ability to compile a diverse and compelling set of works, produced on the fly over a short three-day recording schedule, made even more challenging by the level of difficulty of these works. Thankfully, his fellow musicians made the process seemingly effortless, and one could tell that this was truly a team effort under Watkins' leadership. It's great to hear Patrick Hession's fine lead playing again for the first time since our summer at Disney World just a few years back. The production team, highly praised by Watkins in the liner notes, was equally deserving of such, but I'm sure they appreciated the quality of the original material.

The mix of music, melodies and instrumentation is fresh, and upon continued listening, increasingly enjoyable, not necessarily to imply an acquired taste. The selections include everything from early '60s styled big band bebop to current instrumental pop grooves, a couple of passionate vocals featuring Eugene "Eugenious" Stovall and also some great Latin jazz for good measure.

9/2/2004

Pittsburgh City Paper

Writer: JUSTIN HOPPER
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CD Review: A-List

Internationally acclaimed jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson's targeted poaching of talent from the Pittsburgh area has had a profound impact on the young jazz scene around town. Much the way that earlier big-name players and high-profile local clubs circulated musical blood in and out of Pittsburgh, Ferguson has taken musicians such as drummer Dave Throckmorton and bassist Paul Thompson (of Beam and Thoth Trio, amongst others) and bassist Nathan Peck (of Pittsburgh's Peck jazz family), and given them immeasurable experience, which the musicians have faithfully brought back to the 'Burgh. The latest result of the Ferguson-Pittsburgh connection is *A-List*, the debut solo album by trombonist/composer/arranger Reggie Watkins. And while *A-List* speaks volumes about Watkins' own accomplishments as a musician and composer, it simultaneously acts as a rallying point for a young, vibrant set of jazz musicians around the city -- the top names and top players of a new generation who make up the first-choice list of the title.

First and foremost, of course, is Watkins himself, a remarkably pure trombonist whose strong tones range from laid-back harmonies ("December Twentieth") to bop sectionals ("Weight for Six") to funky, fusion-inspired soloing ("Three Girls on Two Chairs"), reggae rhythms ("Molero"), and Fred Wesley-ish percussive kinetic action. Watkins' trademark throughout *A-List*, though, is confidence: He plays with the cool ease and subtle machismo of a veteran, both of the tour spotlight of Ferguson's band and of the smoky eclecticism of the Quiet Storm Coffeehouse sessions by the Jive Family, from which some of *A-List*'s musical chairs are drawn. Similarly, Watkins' own compositions, such as the subdued "Two Colors" and the slingshot "Weight For Six," stand up as full-fledged jazz-standard contenders without reeking of puffed-chest, gunslinger's bravado.



Reggie Watkins
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AGREEMENT

Agreement was made this _____ day of 2006 between _____ of _____ represented by _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Producer") and Reggie Watkins (hereinafter referred to as "Artist) whereas Producer hereby engages Artist and Artist accepts engagement at the venue, on the date and for the performance fee and other pertinent stipulations, as follows:

1. Date and time of Performance: _____

2. Place of Performance: _____

3. Amount of Performance fee: _____

4. Payment to be made as follows: _____ to be paid in cash on the night of the engagement.

5. The Artist will perform _____ sets of _____ each starting at _____

6. The recording of sound or video of the performance or any other documentation of the performance is expressly prohibited unless permission is granted in writing by the Artist.

7. Producer will provide _____ hotel rooms from ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

8. The agreement of the Artist to perform is subject to proven detention by sickness, accident, an act of providence, or any other responsible and legitimate condition that may occur beyond the control of the Artist.

The Parties whose signatures appear below have read and understood this agreement. Unless otherwise written, this document be the entire understanding of both parties.

WE AGREE:

(Artist)

(Producer)

For:_____

For:_____