

# Chip Shelton

## Long Bio

Chip Shelton is a jazz multi-instrumentalist who performs on flutes, saxophones, vocals, percussion, and more. With 8 critically acclaimed recordings, he tours internationally while based in the New York City area.

Shelton's own crafted sub-genre of jazz, "Romance Jazz", focuses on meaningful life themes infused with a personal and tender quality. His upcoming release "Plan Be Dream Music" sparked by his own life story of being a professional musician and an orthodontist, will be accompanied by a book entitled "Excel in Two Careers...Plan Be™Your Dream..."

He attended the Manhattan School of Music as a jazz flute major while studying privately with Julius Baker (aka "dean of American flutists"). He performs with several ensembles such as his PeaceTime Ensemble, The New York Jazz Flutet, which he also leads; the Spirit of Life Ensemble, New Jazz City, Art Lillard's Heavenly Big Band, and others. He has recorded or performed with many top musicians including Ron Carter, Roy Ayers, Donny Hathaway, Peter Bernstein, Louis Hayes, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Joe Lee Wilson and more.

## PERFORMANCE FORMATS

### Chip Shelton Peace Time Ensemble

The core group is a trio of organ, drums, plus sax/ flute/vocal/percussion by Shelton. The ensemble expands as events, venues, festivals, and budgets require.

### The NY Jazz Flutet

New York area's premier jazz and classical multi- flute ensemble consists of 5 flutists playing a variety of flutes with Shelton handling the low end on the immense contrabass flute and enormous sub-contrabass flutes. The New York Jazz Flutet performs jazz venues and a variety of special events. The Flutet expands or contracts as required by the venue.

This type multi-flute jazz ensemble was pioneered by Shelton in the 1990's as the first known jazz flute big band. He featured 10 flutes, 5 rhythm, male & female vocalists in his "World Flute Choir". Later, renamed "The World Flute Orchestra", the band

performed New York area venues like St Peter's ("the jazz church"), Mt. Vernon Jazz Festival, Zanzibar, and more.

The National Flute Association comprised primarily of classical flutists, subsequently embraced Shelton's concept. In recent years they frequently feature jazz flutists from around the world at their annual convention, performing a 'jazz flute big band' concert.

In October 2019 Shelton debuted his latest "concept band" The **Jazz Flute Party Band**, featuring toe-tapping music for dancing and romancing by multiple flute luminaries, full rhythm section, a male and a female vocalist.

## **DISCOGRAPHY**

**Chip Shelton** has recorded and/or performed with Ron Carter, Peter Bernstein, Ryo Kawasaki, Onaje Allan Gumbs, The Spirit of Life Ensemble, Jim Walker, Joe Lee Wilson, Ted Curson, Mala Waldron, Louis Hayes, Donny Hathaway, Roy Meriwether, James Moody, Craig Holiday Haynes, Antonio Hart, Greg Murphy, Tom Charlap, Mark Gross, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Ernie Wilkins, Irene Reid, and others.

### **8 critically-acclaimed releases as of 2019:**

**"Imbued With Memories"**, on Summit Records; Grammy-ranked in 2008.

**"Have Flute Will Travel- Stop 2, Cape May Jazz Festival"**, featuring Doug Carn, on Summit Records.

**"Peacetime"**, featuring Roy Meriwether, on Summit Records.

**"Have Flute Will Travel, Stop 1-Berlin"**, on Summit Records,

**"Flute Bass-ics"**, featuring Ron Carter, on Summit Records,

**"More What Flutes 4"**, featuring Ryo Kawasaki and Roy Meriwether, on Satellites Records

**"3 Flutes Up"**, featuring Onaje Allan Gumbs and Ryo Kawasaki, on Satellites Records

**"A Labor of Love"**, featuring Onaje Allan Gumbs and Ryo Kawasaki, on RUP Records, recorded live at The Five Spot, NYC.

### **1 Digital Release as of 2019:**

"Limited Edition" on CCMS Records is a sampler of previously-unreleased material from two (2) diverse settings: Rive Gauche/ Cairo Egypt and Cecil's Jazz Club/ USA.

### 2020-22 Releases:

"Plan Be Dream Music", label and release date tbd

"Special Days Each Year", label and release date tbd

"Mentors", label and release date tbd

### Featured on:

"Passion and Purpose", Spirit of Life Ensemble, RUP Records

"Don't Follow The Cat", Nabiyah Be (Jimmy Cliff's daughter), a digitally-released video (prior to her Broadway and feature film/Black Panther breakthroughs)

"Moments In Time", Spirit of Life Ensemble, RUP Records

"Flame of Wishing Star", Okaru Hosino-Lovelace, on Lovelace Jazz

Summit Records Jazz & Classical Collection, 2006

Summit Records Jazz & Classical Collection, 2005

"More Than Red", Paul Serrato, Graffiti Records

"Neon Palm Tree", Paul Serrato, Graffiti Records

"Feel The Spirit", Spirit of Life Ensemble, RUP Records

"Sakura, Home of My Heart", Okaru Hoshino Lovelace, on Lovelace Jazz Music

## INNOVATIONS

Chip Shelton is a **multi-instrumentalist on rarely heard instruments** including end-blown flute; antique tenor & soprano saxophones in key of C; soprano saxophone in Eb; Bb flute d'amore; Eb flute; bass, contrabass, & sub contrabass flutes; and most of the related 'conventional' woodwinds.

Known as the "**Architect of Romance Jazz**"<sup>SM</sup>, Shelton innovates a jazz sub-genre that consistently displays personal, tender qualities and emotions of the composer/arranger, descriptively similar to "Romance Music" in western classical music.

As mentioned above, he pioneered the **first known jazz flute big band** in the 1990's featuring many of the NY area's top flutists. An even more festive version of this concept re-emerged in 2019 as **The Jazz Flute Party Band**.

## COMPOSING/ ARRANGING

Shelton performances and recordings consistently have the identifiable artistic touch of his own compositions and arrangements.

"Plan Be Dream Music" (for 2020 release), for example, features original compositions and arrangements, mainly by Shelton, with a sprinkling of originals by select ensemble members.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

High-powered **Performance-Workshops** that deliver relevant music and career-planning topics, including (but not limited to):

**Plan B or No "Plan Be"™** gives creative-minded participants of all disciplines, **age 12 through adult**, a **unique look at career-planning alternatives**, based on the Shelton book "Excel In Two Careers... 'Plan Be'™ Your Dream...". This workshop debuted at the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), Northeast Regional Convention, 2014.

At workshop's conclusion, following Q&A, pre-rehearsed attendees join Shelton in an orchestrated "Big Band-style" performance of some original music from the Shelton 2020 CD release: "Plan Be™ Dream Music"

**Improvisation 101**, first presented at the NY Flute Club/Annual Flute Fair at Columbia U. in 2018, shares **little-known improvising techniques** centered around recent brain wave studies. Thought processes and techniques shared here advance the skills, not only of instrumentalists new-to-improvising, but also those with experience. At the conclusion, following Q&A, volunteers get to show off their new skills, participating in a "jam session", fully-structured by the presenter.

**Help! How to Play Alto & Bass** (flutes) **Without Pain** was first presented at the 47th Annual Convention, National Flute Association (NFA) in 2019. Shelton shares **prevention and self-maintenance** insights into many types of **painful "overuse" syndromes** frequently experienced, not only by flutists, but **instrumentalists of all types**. Following Q&A, the audience participates in a sing-along to

“I Got Rhythm”, but with workshop-related (projected) lyrics. Time permitting, attendees are invited to join in for a “jam session”, fully-structured by the presenter.

A lifelong musician, board certified orthodontist (Ret.), orthodontic educator, and longtime board member of the NFA Performance Health Care Committee, Chip Shelton is regularly called upon to present Performance-Workshops, appear on educational panels, and perform in feature concerts. In August, 2019 he appeared on 2 panels, presented the performance workshop above, and won a competition-award playing piccolo, bass and contrabass flutes in the NFA Jazz Flute Big Band at the 47th Annual NFA Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.