

Chip Shelton Long Bio

Chip Shelton is a multi-instrumentalist who performs on flutes, saxophones, vocals, percussion, and more. He attended the Manhattan School of Music as a jazz flute major while studying classically with Julius Baker (*aka "dean of American flutists"*). With 8 critically acclaimed recordings as of 2019, and 3 new releases slated for 2020-21, 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 2020 CD release "***Plan Be Dream Music***", sparked by his own life story, balancing 2 careers as professional musician and orthodontist (Ret.) is accompanied by his 1st book, "***Excel in Two Careers...Plan Be™ Your Dream***".

He leads 3 active ensembles: ***The Chip Shelton PeaceTime Ensemble, The New York Jazz Flutet, and The Flute Party Band***. He has performed with many top musicians including Ron Carter, Roy Ayers, Donny Hathaway, Peter Bernstein, Louis Hayes, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Joe Lee Wilson, Jim Walker, Mala Waldron, Craig Holiday Haynes, Antonio Hart, Greg Murphy, Mark Gross, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Ernie Wilkins, Irene Reid, and more.

PERFORMANCE FORMATS

The Chip Shelton Peace Time Ensemble instrumentally performs contemporary post-bop jazz and world beat originals and standards, interspersing occasional vocals by Shelton, the band, and frequent guest artists.

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 (NYJF) is the New York area's premier jazz and classical multi-flute ensemble consisting of 4 flutists playing most of the varied family of flutes, plus percussionist. Shelton handles the low end on the immense ***contrabass*** and enormous ***sub-contrabass flutes***. NYJF performs jazz venues, churches, weddings, plus a variety of special events, and expands or contracts as the occasion requires.

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 top flutists, 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*"), The Five Spot, Sunset Family Jazz Festival, Zanzibar, and more.

The ***Flute Party Band (FPB)***, debuted by Shelton in October 2019, features toe-tapping music for listening, dancing, and romancing played by multiple flute luminaries, full rhythm section, male and female vocalists. The string bassist's low end is occasionally augmented by Shelton's immense ***contrabass*** and enormous ***sub-contrabass flutes***.

FPB is a festive, multi-generational, pan-ethnic ensemble that performs large-capacity venues and events. It expands or contracts as required by the occasion. The traveling band typically includes 5 male and 5 female musicians plus 1-2 audio-visual technician(s).

DISCOGRAPHY

Chip Shelton has recorded with Ron Carter, Ryo Kawasaki, Onaje Allan Gumbs, The Spirit of Life Ensemble, Joe Lee Wilson, Ted Curson, Roy Meriwether, Akiko Tsuruga, Doug Carn, Tom Charlap, Okaru Lovelace, Paul Serrato, and more.

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.

3 Digital Releases as of August 2020
[available at chipshelton.com/store]

Limited Edition" on CCM Records is a sampler of previously-unreleased material from 2 diverse settings: Rive Gauche/ Cairo, Egypt & Cecil's Jazz Club/ USA.

"Juneteenth", a single on CCM Records, celebrates the annual June commemoration of the end of slavery in the USA. This original by Shelton is excerpted from his (*upcoming*) 2021 CD release "Special Days Each Year" which features 15 Shelton originals themed around occasions celebrated annually.

"Plan Be", on CCM Records as both **audio and video singles**, presents a ***Flute Party Band (FPB)*** re-interpretation of the title song from the Shelton PeaceTime Ensemble's 2020 "Plan Be Dream Music" CD.

2020-21 CD Releases

“Plan Be™ Dream Music” on CCM Records in mid-2020 is Shelton's 9th release. It spotlights 9 Shelton originals and synchronizes with the release of his 1st book, “Excel in 2 Careers...Plan Be™ Your Dream”. The CD and book (available at chipshelton.com) resonate an inspiring force for creatives pursuing their life’s dream(s).

“Mentors” on CCM Records in late 2020 is Shelton's 10th release. It pays homage to music mentors past & present, singling out Jimmy Heath’s “Heritage Hum” & “Angel Man”; Frank Foster’s “Simone”; Frank Wess' “Half Moon Street”; plus 5 Shelton originals and vocal flavorings on Willie Dixon’s “I Love the Life I Live” & Richie Cole’s “DC Farewell”

“Special Days Each Year”, release #11 on CCM Records in 2021, lends itself to year-round airplay, delivering 15 seasonal originals by Shelton, including “Birthday Love”, “MLK”, “A Snow Day”, “Spring Break”, “Mothers Day Gratitude”, “Juneteenth”, “Mandela Day”, “Election Days”, “Have a Happy Thanksgiving”, “Christmas (Hanukkah, Kwanzaa) is My Time of Year”, and much more.

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 2006 Jazz & Classical Collection

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“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 JazzSM”**, 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.

Chip Shelton 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 Flute Party Band**.

COMPOSING/ ARRANGING

Shelton performances and recordings consistently have the identifiable touch of several of his nearly-100 compositions and arrangements.

"Plan Be Dream Music" (2020), for example, features 9 Shelton original compositions and arrangements; and "Special Days Each Year" (2021) features 15 Shelton originals.

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 in 2014.

At workshop's conclusion, following Q&A, pre-rehearsed attendees join Shelton in an orchestrated "Big Band-style" performance of some original conference-related music by Shelton.

Improvisation 101 /201, 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" using 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 National Flute Association (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.