

felluca

ART



Photos by Eric Antoniou

"Felluca's solo is excellent. This kid has some real ability on saxophone and one should keep their eyes open for him in the future." - Thomas R. Erdmann, JazzReview.com

Art Felluca Biography

Born and raised on Barn Swallow Lane, in Rochester, New York, the city on the shores of Lake Ontario, Art Felluca is a hard-working, handsome 27-year-old jazz composer, arranger and versatile woodwind instrumentalist who is releasing his first CD, *Inward*. The recording features his virtuosic ten-piece band, the Art Felluca Group with original compositions and sensitive arrangements of works from Dave Brubeck and Wayne Shorter.

Primarily an alto saxophonist, he also plays soprano saxophone, flute and clarinet. Art began his musical studies on piano at age 6, took up clarinet at age 10 and then alto saxophone a year later. It was the

saxophone that had always really seemed like the coolest instrument to him, but it was after hearing the Dave Brubeck Quartet's recording *Time Out* that featured saxophonist Paul Desmond that Art began to really develop a smoking interest in jazz. Desmond's playing galvanized him--then he began honing in on the thrill and the freedom of the art of improvisation.

During his high school years, Art's skills and musicianship accelerated quickly as he practiced feverishly, the jazz "bug" fully taking hold. Then he won the Outstanding Soloist Award at the 2000 Essentially Ellington Festival founded by Wynton Marsalis and run by Jazz at Lincoln Center. He also played in the New York State All-State Jazz Ensemble and was one of two winners in the Rochester

Area Young Jazz Artist Competition in 2001. As a result, he was asked to perform with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra "Pops" that summer in a concert directed by Grammy-winning producer Jeff Tyzik, one of America's

New CD: *Inward*

- Barn Swallow Lane
- Strange Meadow Lark
- Timeline
- Inward
- Chance Encounter
- Questions From A Child
- Fee Fi Fo Fum
- Wavering

Scullers Jazz Club
CD Release Concert
February 1, 2011 8 PM

THE ART FELLUCA GROUP

- Art Felluca, alto & soprano sax
- Matt Joseph, trumpet
- Aaron Bahr, trumpet & flugelhorn
- Michael Sachs, alto & soprano sax

- Leon Carter, tenor saxophone
- Clayton DeWalt, trombone
- Ben Whiting, baritone saxophone
- Greg Duncan, guitar
- Takeshi Ohbayashi, piano
- Oliver Watkinson, acoustic bass
- Jonathan Pinson, drums



foremost pops conductors.

On Sunday nights, he was invited to "sit in" at a Rochester jazz bar and restaurant known as Giuseppe's. There, he met an influential retired Navy musician who mentored him and got him excited about the music programs offered by the U.S. Navy.

So, following high school, Art enlisted in the Navy with a rating of MU (Musician), leaving Rochester and his high school sweetheart Kate. They had known each other since grammar school!

After completing the tough, tough Navy Basic Training in Great Lakes, Illinois and studies at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Rock, Virginia in the fall of 2001, Art was stationed with Navy Band Northeast in Newport, Rhode Island, where he served through June of 2006. Despite the distance, his relationship with Kate continued to grow, and when she moved just 90 minutes north of Newport to attend Boston University School of Law, it blossomed.

In Newport, Art gained a wealth of experience performing all over New England with not only the Navy's Show Band but also with the Ceremonial Band, the Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble and several small jazz groups. He missed seeing most of the Newport Jazz Festivals because of the bands' busy performing schedules, but during the annual Fleet Week in May, he would frequent the New York City jazz clubs and gain inspiration from the likes of the Mingus Big Band, Chico O'Farrill's Afro-Cuban Jazz

Orchestra, Dave Douglas and Chris Potter, among others. He was selected as Junior Sailor of the Year for both the Navy Band Northeast and the Navy Region Northeast in 2002, for which he received a Navy Achievement Medal. He also received a second Navy Achievement Medal in 2006, and was honorably discharged in August that same year.

In August of 2006, Art married Kate, moved north to Boston and began studies in Jazz Composition at Berklee College of Music. While at Berklee, he played in and composed music for two of the college's hot showcase ensembles: The Berklee Concert Jazz Orchestra, directed by Greg Hopkins, and The Rainbow Band, directed by the legendary Phil Wilson. In performing with these ensembles, Art shared the stage with a variety of jazz legends and well known musicians. Among them were McCoy Tyner, Benny Golson, Hal Galper, Christian Scott and Joe Lovano. Art also received the college's Herb Pomeroy Award as well as the Wayne Shorter Award for Achievement in Jazz Composition. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree in May of 2009.

Art and Kate currently live in Melrose, a suburb of Boston, where they share a home with a large breed, 21-pound, adopted cat named Bailey who likes to lounge around in their bathroom sink!

Currently, Art is pursuing his Master of Music Degree in Jazz Composition at New England Conservatory, where he performs and



composes for the Jazz Composers Workshop Orchestra directed by Frank Carlberg and the Jazz Composers Ensemble which is under the direction of Ken Schaphorst. Kate is a full time civil litigation attorney, working at a firm in Cambridge.

Art is also taking part in NEC's forward-thinking Music-In-Education program, which will give Art a concentration in Music Education along with his upcoming Masters Degree in Jazz Composition. One of his favorite things he did last year within this program was to design his own music theory course for high school band students at Boston's Josiah Quincy Upper School. Art was floored by the fact that Boston's inner city students hardly get any music education until 7th grade, so this opportunity tested and challenged and taught both the students AND Art. It's something he is looking forward to again this year.



The Fellucas' "jazz" cat named Bailey