

Biography

An accomplished performer and formidable composer and arranger, this young saxophonist is emerging as a prominent example of the modern day instrumentalist. Seven Days called him "...a staple of the New England jazz scene." Jazz trumpet marvel, Ray Vega, called him plainly, "one of the most important jazz musicians to the Vermont scene," a sentiment echoed by mentor and saxophone guru Dr. David Demsey, coordinator of the renowned jazz program at William Paterson University, McCarthy's alma mater, who added, "Brian showed when he was a student and my grad assistant here that he could hang with the best young players in the country, and he has gone on, as expected, to become a major force and fixture on the New England music scene, as a player and as a teacher." His accomplishments as a saxophonist were recognized in 2011 by the prestigious and legendary company Conn-Selmer and Selmer Paris, who saw fit to add McCarthy to their elite roster of endorsed artists.

An intoxicating improviser, with a mature sound and adaptive skills make McCarthy a highly sought after musician and arranger. His sophomore album as a leader, "This Just In" (2013), has received widespread acclaim. All About Jazz says "[McCarthy] touches those roads Joshua Redman travels on with a fresh footing. This band excels at building anticipation... exciting" and "[McCarthy's] alto has plenty of fire without surrendering its lighter touch." John Barron, of Jazz World Blog says "Saxophonist Brian McCarthy takes a progressive approach to straight-ahead jazz, demonstrating a strong command of the jazz saxophone lineage." The album can be heard from coast to coast on radio stations and syndicated programming like Jazz After Hours with Jim Wilke.

When he is not headlining, you can find him rounding out the horn section with mogul jazz trumpeter Ray Vega and his Quintet. And those who frequent Burlington's most popular night clubs can catch him with the area's most popular funk establishment, The Grippo Funk Band. In 2010, bassist Mike Gordon, of the superstar jam band Phish, called upon McCarthy's talents to arrange and play on his latest solo release "Moss."

Offstage, Brian has laid down roots as a central figure in arranging, presenting and education. He has reconstructed big band scores for the Thad Jones archive, the James Williams archive and Jerry Dodgion. He has also generated sheet music for bands such as Guster, Mike Gordon, and Trey Anastasio. Brian is a jazz faculty member at St. Michael's College, the University of Vermont and Johnson State College. In addition to his college involvement, he is active with students at the high school level as a clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor. In 2011, Brian also established *Jazz at St. Michael's College*, a concert and educational series, featuring artists such as Mulgrew Miller, Joe Locke and the power-house Brian Blade and The Fellowship Band.

Already a respected professional and educator, McCarthy continues to expand his work as a leader, composer, first-call sideman, and sought after teacher. Certainly the future holds many remarkable developments from this up-and-coming artist.