

BILLY HART

Drums

BIOGRAPHY

Billy Hart was born in Washington D.C. on November 29, 1940. He is one of the most influential, melodic and creative drummers in jazz and has twice won first place in the DownBeat Critics Poll for talent deserving wider recognition.

His first steady gigs of note were with Shirley Horn and Buck Hill. In the 1960's he toured with Jimmy Smith, Wes Montgomery, Eddie Harris, and Pharoah Sanders. In 1970 he joined Herbie Hancock's Sextet, and after that band broke up in 1973 he joined first McCoy Tyner (two years) and then Stan Getz (four). He also played with Miles Davis.

In the 1980's Hart was a regular with many bands and leaders: Gerry Mulligan, Billy Harper, Clark Terry, The New York Jazz Quartet, the Jazztet, Mingus Dynasty and most extensively with Quest (with David Liebman, Richie Beirach, and Ron McClure). In the 1990's Hart was a member of the Charles Lloyd, Joe Lovano, and Tom Harrell groups, and in 1999 he began performing with the Three Tenors (Liebman, Lovano, and Michael Brecker).

Billy is featured on about 600 hundred records as a sideman.

As a leader, he has formed ensembles that have been discreet pioneers of musical styles, featuring musicians such as Bill Frisell, Eddie Henderson, Branford Marsalis, Steve Coleman, Dave Liebman, Kenny Kirkland, Kevin Eubanks, Richie Beirach, Stanley Cowell, Billy Harper, Sonny Fortune, Dave Holland, Santi DeBriano, Buster Williams, Mark Feldman, John Stubblefield, Chris Potter and Dave Kikoski.

He is currently on the faculty of several major Universities and educational jazz camps worldwide. He teaches at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and he is adjunct faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music and Western Michigan University. He also teaches private lessons through The New School and New York University, and often contributes to the Stokes Forest Music Camp and the Dworp Summer Jazz Clinic in Belgium.

Billy Hart plays Pearl Drums and Zildjian cymbals.

PARTIAL LIST OF RECORDINGS

Billy Hart's own records include:

Enchance (1977, A&M Horizon) with Dewey Redman, Marvin "Hannibal" Peterson, Eddie Henderson, Oliver Lake, Don Pullen, Buster Williams, and Dave Holland

Such Great Friends (1983, Strata East) with Billy Harper, Stanley Cowell, and Reggie Workman.

Oshumare (1985, Gramavision) with Steve Coleman, Branford Marsalis, Didier Lockwood, Kenny Kirkland, Bill Frisell, Kevin Eubanks, Mark Grey, and Dave Holland

Great Friends (1986, Evidence) with Sonny Fortune, Billy Harper, Stanley Cowell, and Reggie Workman

Rah (1987, Gramavision) with Dave Liebman, Kenny Kirkland, Eddie Henderson, Ralph Moore, Kevin Eubanks, Bill Frisell, Mark Grey, Eddie Gomez, Buster Williams, and Caris Visentin

Amethyst (1993, Arabesque) with John Stubblefield, Mark Feldman, David Fiuczynski, David Kikoski, Marc Copland, and Santi Debriano

Oceans of Time (1996, Arabesque) with John Stubblefield, Chris Potter, Mark Feldman, David Fiuczynski, David Kikoski, and Santi Debriano.