

PAUL KELLER

BIOGRAPHY – ONE PAGE

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Since 1989, string bassist Paul Keller has led his 15-piece big band Paul Keller Orchestra to critical and popular acclaim. The PKO's American Music Research Foundation Big Band Boogie Woogie concert was broadcast nationally on PBS throughout 2009 and 2010. The PKO's Jazz Student Outreach Program hosted 30 school bands and over 700 student musicians in 2010.

Paul is a prolific composer. In October, 2010 the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra premiered Paul's five-movement symphonic composition The Ypsilanti Orchestral Jazz Suite. This major piece, written for jazz band and full symphony orchestra, celebrates Paul's hometown of Ypsilanti, MI. The suite was received enthusiastically and was praised by community leaders as an important work of art with historical significance.

Paul's magnum opus The Michigan Jazz Suite is a collection of 15 Keller compositions inspired by people, places and icons of the great state of Michigan. Featuring the Paul Keller Ensemble with titles like Big Mac, and Soo's Blues, The Michigan Jazz Suite won the Detroit Music Award for Best Jazz Recording of 2008.

In 2007 Keller created 15 original orchestra charts for clarinetist Dave Bennett's symphonic Pops show A Salute to Benny Goodman. This show, composed for jazz band and full symphony orchestra has been performed by over 25 major US orchestras. Keller also wrote Bennett's second orchestra Pops show Clarinet Is King, featuring 10 new original Keller arrangements of songs from Artie Shaw, Pete Fountain, and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1989, Keller formed PKO Records to feature various southeast Michigan jazz artists. Paul's newest CD is WE LIKE TO RIFF - A Toast to the Nat "King" Cole Trio. For more information about Paul Keller, his jazz groups and his CDs, log onto www.pkorecords.com.

Paul is well known for his associations with pianist/vocalist Diana Krall and guitarist Russell Malone. Paul has performed with jazz greats Joe Williams, Cab Calloway, Marian McPartland, Barry Harris, Jeff Hamilton, Benny Golson, Benny Green, Jon Hendricks, Wycliff Gordon,

Mulgrew Miller, Jay McShann and James Moody. He has played on over 50 CDs with artists such as Larry Vuckovich, Eddie Higgins, and Marcus Belgrave.

Paul was honored by the West Michigan Jazz Society as their 2001 Jazz Musician of the Year and by the Detroit Music Awards as the 2002 Outstanding Jazz Instrumentalist. Keller is on the faculty of the Wayne State University jazz department in Detroit. He travels frequently, giving jazz concerts, workshops and clinics and is well-respected as an innovative and enthusiastic jazz educator.