

ABOUT JON FADDIS ~

Jon Faddis is a complete and consummate musician - conductor, composer, and educator. Marked by both intense integrity and humor, Faddis earned accolades from his close friend and mentor John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie, who declared of Faddis, “He's the best ever, including me!” As a trumpeter, Faddis possesses a virtually unparalleled range and full command of his instrument, making the practically impossible seem effortless.

Born in 1953 in Oakland, CA, Faddis began playing at age seven, inspired by an appearance by Louis Armstrong on the Ed Sullivan Show. Bill Catalano (an alumnus of the Stan Kenton band) hipped Faddis to the music of Dizzy Gillespie. Meeting Dizzy Gillespie at the Monterey Jazz Festival and then sitting in with him at the Jazz Workshop in San Francisco proved to be a pivotal beginning of a unique friendship between Gillespie and Faddis, one that spanned almost three decades. Two days before his 18th birthday, Faddis joined Lionel Hampton's band as a featured soloist, moving from Oakland, CA to New York. Shortly after arriving in Manhattan, Faddis was invited to sit in with the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra at the Village Vanguard; he rapidly became lead trumpeter for the band, touring the world. He soon formed his own quartet, and began directing orchestras, including the Grammy-winning United Nation Orchestra, the Dizzy Gillespie 70th Birthday Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars, the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars Big Band, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble (2004-2010), the Carnegie Hall Centennial Big Band, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band (1992-2002), and the Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra of New York (2003-present). Faddis has also served as guest conductor and featured guest with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, among others.

Faddis' distinctive trumpet appears on hundreds of records and numerous soundtracks for film and television. Faddis' original compositions include the Jazz opera *Lulu Noire* (1997) (named a “Top 10” pick by USA Today); other Faddis compositions may be heard on his Grammy-nominated *Remembrances* (Chesky 1998) and *TERANGA* (Koch 2006) (both now on www.HDtracks.com), as well as *Hornucopia* (Epic 1991) and *Into the Faddisphere* (Epic 1989).

Faddis is known as one of the most innovative and inspiring jazz trumpeters of our time. He has an unfailing commitment to the education of young musicians and frequently conducts clinics and master classes worldwide to help the next generation of jazz musicians. In Chicago, Faddis served as the Jazz Institute of Chicago's first mentor for its Jazz Links program and also created the Louis Armstrong Legacy Program. Faddis is a full-time faculty member at the Conservatory of Music, Purchase College-SUNY, where he began in 1999 as Artist-in-Residence, becoming shortly after Professor and Director of Jazz Performance. Faddis received an honorary doctorate in Jazz from Manhattan School of Music (which he attended for about a semester when he was 18 and where he teaches trumpet now), as well as numerous other accolades and awards.

Whatever the context – classroom or concert hall – and whatever the style, Jon Faddis epitomizes the best in Jazz.

Jon Faddis plays Schilke trumpets, hand-crafted in Illinois.

MORE ABOUT JON FADDIS:

Faddis is an “Olympian trumpet athlete ... playing better than ever ... Mr. Faddis always excels”
... “a trumpet player of prodigious lyrical force”
-- *The Wall Street Journal*

“Jon Faddis has reached the very peak of jazz performance: he seems to play everything he conceives exactly as he conceives it, the music going directly from soul to horn, with unbridled power and flawless technique.”
-- Neil Tesser

“the world's greatest trumpeter ... the greatest trumpeter on the planet for decades ... brash soloistic logic and breathtaking technical acuity”
-- *Time Out New York*

FADDIS' TERANGA IS:

“Critic's Choice” “four stars” “warm ... original”
-- *The New York Times*

“lush and visceral ... enigmatic and thoughtful ... sparkling and superb”
-- *All Music Guide*

“four stars” “a breakthrough” “Faddis' mastery of profound harmonic language and formidable dynamic range [is] gorgeous ... conveys deeper emotions.”
-- *Down Beat*

“magnificent ... [Faddis'] sound is irresistible ... lyrical ... delightful ... an excellent new album ... from a virtuoso and deeply committed contributor to Jazz.”
-- *Jazz Improv*

“absolutely brilliant” “a brilliant album that allows Faddis to be Faddis ... hauntingly beautiful ... hip ... rollicking ... exciting ... vivid intensesness ... subtle and smooth ... diverse ... unique and original ... understated glory.”
-- *Jazzreview.com*

“fun ... enjoyable ... infectious ... astounding ... straightahead bop ... ballads ... bossa nova ... and blues ... TERANGA demands repeat listening.”
-- *Jazz Times*

“invigorating ... intoxicating”
-- *Jazz Weekly*

“Top CDs: originality, subtlety, fire and joy meet outstanding musicianship in TERANGA.”
-- *Upbeat! WBGO Jazz 88.3 FM*

<https://www.hdtracks.com/#/album/5e18012dc91f49e7e9701d0a> (Remembrances)

<https://www.hdtracks.com/#/album/5e3ba70d00741c34a47de01e> (Teranga)

<http://www.jonfaddis.net>

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<http://www.npr.org/artists/92623694/jon-faddis>

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/video/digital-stage/jazz/honors/dave-brubeck-tribute-honors/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZjxcC2JhlU> (Jazz panel 2020 Louis Armstrong)

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