Ben Wolfe

New York bassist/composer and bandleader Ben Wolfe's music has been described as **"Mingus and Miles Davis meet Bartok and Bernard Herrmann"** (Ben Ratliff - The New York Times). With acclaim by some of the jazz world's most respected critics, Wolfe continues to produce works that draw top-flight reviews from fans and jazz journalists alike.

Ben's 2024 release *The Understated* is his eleventh as leader and features all original compositions. Nicole Glover who plays tenor saxophone on the record says in her liner notes **"This record succeeds in bringing Ben's beautiful music to life through extremely conscientious group playing. Nothing is forced or pushed; everything that needs to be stated is stated."**

In many ways, *The Understated* is a continuation of his previous release the critically acclaimed *Unjust*. **"Unjust is a brilliant work of melodic ensemble writing and superb playing by a stellar intergenerational crew."** (Bill Milkowski, Downbeat).
It's balance – of elegance and propulsion, of accessibility and edge - distinguishes it from most conventional jazz. Its details reward repeated listening." (Larry Blumenfeld, Wall Street Journal)

There is no doubt that after decades as one of the most sought-after bassists in jazz, performing with top names such as Wynton Marsalis, Harry Connick Jr., Diana Krall and many others, award-winning composer and bandleader Ben Wolfe is clear about his creative direction… **"Much of the music I've composed; particularly the music that includes strings, I think of as chamber music within a jazz context."**

An award-winning composer, Ben is a two-time recipient of Chamber Music America's New Works: Creation and Presentation Program Grant through the Doris Duke Foundation. First received in 2004, Ben was able to use this funding to compose his extended work "Contradiction: Music for Sextet." He received the grant in 2020 and composed "Nonet". Both of these extended works have been recorded for future release.

Wolfe has distinguished himself through a significant catalogue of original music, including over **one hundred songs across eleven albums**, several extended works, and the film score for Matthew Modine's 2008 short *I Think I Thought*. *The New York Sun* hailed his work on this film as, "a standout music score."

Wolfe's early career **included Grammy award-winning, platinum-selling collaborations** with both Harry Connick Jr. and Diana Krall, including Harry's 1988 soundtrack album *When Harry Met Sally*, and Diana's 1999 release *When I Look in Your Eyes*. He appeared alongside both artists on numerous world tours.

Wolfe's ongoing and close association with Wynton Marsalis; during which Marsalis recorded as a guest on two of his albums, has seen Ben appear on a number of Wynton's releases, and

included a stint in the Wynton Marsalis Septet and membership in the Jazz at Lincoln CenteOrchestra (JLCO), where he performed with jazz luminaries such as Joe Henderson, Doc Cheatham, Jon Hendricks, Harry "Sweets" Edison, and Billy Higgins, among many others. Contemporary jazz greats with whom he has also worked and recorded include Branford Marsalis, Orrin Evans, Eric Reed and Benny Green.

Ben Wolfe's full list of recorded original albums as a leader:

• *The Understated*, Resident Arts Records (2024)
• *Unjust*, Resident Arts Records (2023)
• *Fatherhood*, Resident Arts Records (2019)
• *The Whisperer*, Posi-Tone (2015)
• *From Here I See*, MAXJAZZ/Mack Avenue Records (2013)
• *Ben Wolfe Quintet: Live at Smalls*, SmallsLIVE (2011)
• *No Strangers Here*, MAXJAZZ/Mack Avenue Records (2008)
• *My Kinda Beautiful*, Planet Arts Records (2004)
• Murray's Cadillac, Amosaya Music (2000)
• *Bagdad Theater*, Mons Records (1997)
• *13 Sketches*, Mons Records (1996)

Ben maintains a busy schedule, performing and touring on the international stage. Currently a member of the teaching faculty at The Julliard School in New York City, Ben is helping to shape and mentor the jazz scene's next generation of outstanding talent.

"Ben Wolfe swings with authority!"- to quote Wynton Marsalis. It can't be said any better!