

Born in Eugene, Oregon in 1959, Frank received his Master's Degree from Manhattan School of Music, and a BFA from City College of New York, where he also taught from 1985-1995. More recently, Frank was Music Lecturer and Director of Performance at Brunel University from 1997-2017 and taught annually at the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops from 1996-2006.

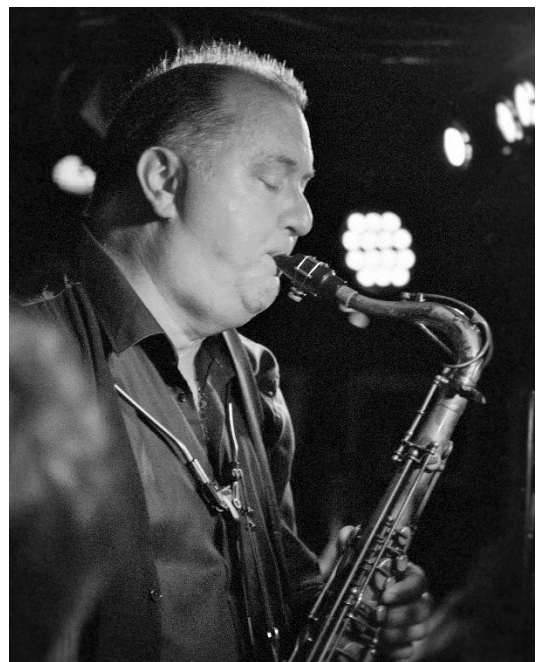
As a longstanding member of the International Association of Jazz Educators, Frank served on their Resource Team and was a charter member of the UK Jazz Services Ltd Education Advisory Panel

Musician

Living in New York from 1980-95, Frank worked with Ron Carter, Jon Hendricks and Jack McDuff, and played lead alto with the Glenn Miller Orchestra for a nationwide tour in 1984. He has also worked with the orchestras of Toshiko Akiyoshi, Mel Lewis, Buddy Rich and Mel Torme, and recorded with guitarist/singer John Pizzarelli on his CD's All Of Me and Naturally.

Frank's debut solo CD, The Suspect, featuring Tom Harrell on Hep Jazz was released in 1999.

His band, The Frank Griffith Nonet has performed frequently in the London area including the annual Ealing Jazz Festival since 2000. That first appearance resulted in the Frank Griffith Nonet 'Live' Ealing Jazz Festival 2000 CD on the Hep Jazz label and their second CD, The Coventry Suite was released in 2004 on 33 Records. Notable performances include London's fabled jazz club Pizza Express on Dean Street in May 2009 with vocalist, Georgia Mancio, and an appearance at the Stables in Wavendon in July of the same year featuring Sir John Dankworth as a guest artist. At the end of the gig Frank was presented with a BAJA (British Adoptee Jazz Alumni) award by the Dankworth's.



Frank also appears on the 2009 John Dankworth Big Band featuring Cleo Laine CD Jazz Matters on the QNote label. He has also appeared with John and Cleo and the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall.

Frank released with his big band CD in 2011 entitled Holland Park Non-Stop on the Hep Jazz label featuring vocalist Tina May.

Frank's debut big band CD Holland Park Non-Stop was released in 2011 on the Hep Jazz label and features vocalist Tina May as well as a host of top flight London based soloists like trumpeters Steve

Fishwick and Freddie Gavita, trombonist, Adrian Fry, saxophonists, Sam Mayne, Matt Wates and Karen Sharp and award winning pianist John Turville.

Griffith has been involved in two London Jazz Festival projects. The first, in 2010 featured his nonet with singers Alexander Stewart and China Moses in a show entitled Songs of Strayhorn at Queen Elizabeth Hall which he co-curated with pianist/songwriter, Alex Webb. In November 2015, the show was revived as 'Lush Life' the songs of Billy Strayhorn' at Cadogan Hall as part of the LJF featuring The Frank Griffith Festival Tentet showcasing his updated arrangements of Strayhorn classics like Satin Doll, Take The A Train and My Little Brown Book. It also featured international singers, Sandra Nkake (France), Allan Harris (USA), and UK singer David McCalmont.

Frank also performed in and contributed several arrangements to another Alex Webb show Café Society Swing celebrating a historic 1940s NYC jazz club and featuring singers China Moses and Gwyneth Herbert at the Purcell Room as part of the LJF. They also played at the Tricycle Theatre, Leicester Square Theatre, The Hideaway and Pizza Express nightclubs in London.

Frank has performed regularly with vocalists, Cleo Laine, Jacqui Dankworth and pianist/singer, Charlie Wood, in the Bedford area as well as The Stables in Wavendon.

Now living in the City of Liverpool, Frank performs with his own groups which include a quartet, nonet and big band as well as his saxophone quartet, Saxtivity He also plays as a sideman with many Liverpool and Manchester based groups.



Composing/Arranging

As a composer/arranger Frank has written for the Ron Carter Nonet, the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and the Jon Hendricks Explosion as well as the Blue Wisp Big Band and the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra and clarinettist, Eddie Daniels. Frank also produced and arranged for guitarist, Dave Stryker's Steeplechase CD Nomad.

Moving to London in 1996, Frank has arranged for Mark Nightingale, Tony Coe, Norma Winstone and Joe Temperley. He is also affiliated with the Pete Cater Big Band, whose CDs, Playing With Fire (1997, Jazzizit) Upswing (2000, Vocalion) and The Right Time (2006, Vocalion) feature many of his compositions and arrangements.

Frank has received composition commissions from the Ealing and Coventry Jazz Festivals, the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Big Band, the Oakham School Big Band, Midlands Youth Jazz Orchestra and AMIS (The Association for Music in International Schools) for their Honours Jazz Festival.

He has two compositions published in the Associated Boards Jazz Works ensemble series as well as two pieces for their Jazz Saxophone Syllabus and is also a consultant for their Jazz Clarinet Syllabus. His clarinet and strings quintet piece Round About is published by Really Good Music and he has two big band pieces published by the University of Northern Colorado Press. Frank also has six big band charts published with www.bigjazzface.com a subsidiary of Kevin Bell Music

Frank has been working regularly with vocalist, Tina May, since 2013 and has provided arrangements for her two CDs of the Hep Jazz label Divas (2013) and My Kinda Love (2014). He has also appeared with Tina twice on the BBC, the first of which in April 2014 on Radio 3's In Tune programme and again on Clare Teal's Sunday night R2 show in October 2014.

His clarinet and string arrangements for baritone saxophonist Joe Temperley were featured on Joe's 2001 CD Easy To Remember also on Hep Jazz.

In addition to his leading and writing for big bands of various sizes, Frank has organised and curated two String Quartet Festivals at Pizza Express in Soho in 2014 and 2015. These events featured well known acts like Liane Carroll, Gwilym Simcock, Empirical, Gilad Atzmon, The London Vocal Project, Julian Stringle and Tina May with a resident string quartet.

Media

Frank was a guest on BBC Radio 3's Jazz Lineup in September 2007 with host Julian Joseph talking about the film music of Sir John Dankworth which was discussed in his article, Jazz in British New Wave Cinema: An interview with Sir John Dankworth. This was published in the December 2006 issue of The Journal of British Cinema and Television.

He has written eighty performance and CD reviews for londonjazznews.com as well as for jazzviews.net and thejazzbreakfast.com. His review of Duncan Heining's biography of George Russell was published in the November 2015 issue of the Jazz Research Journal.