

Marx/Siegel/Esposito



Inyo

“..... lyrical and reflective, but is not totally devoid of humor, playfulness, and recklessness. The trio looks forward while keeping an eye in the rearview mirror and acknowledging the past.... Ultimately, it is this constant and stimulating dialogue between Esposito and Marx (to which Siegel is not a spectator, but rather an instigator or a fire builder) that makes *Inyo* stand out and

worth investigating.” - Alain Drouot JazzInChicago.com

“.....could best be described as unquiet meditations or chaotic lyricism.... a true moment of musical Zen created by three masterful musicians.” - Jakob Baekgaard allaboutjazz.com

“...all three players interact and give each other some space to deal with at the same time. The music breathes and feels natural with some brilliant moments that consistently emerge.The endless inventiveness of this trio is most impressive and this disc remains a jewel in more ways than one.” - Bruce Lee Gallanter Downtown Music Gallery

Jeff Marx

David Franklin observes in the *Jazz Times*, “Marx can improvise extraordinary post-Coltrane hard bop/modal choruses, but often chooses to break out of the mold and open up his solos with techniques appropriated from the world of free jazz, including a flexible sense of time.”

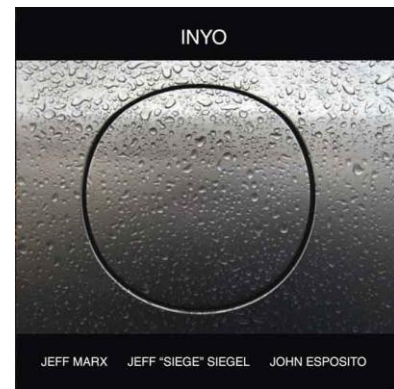
Born and raised in Detroit, tenor saxophonist Jeff Marx began playing the tenor in 1973. He lists his early influences as John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Joe Henderson.

In the '70's Marx moved to Berkeley California to study with Hal Stein. He played sessions and gigs in Oakland and San Francisco with Eddie Henderson and Mark Levine among others.

Marx subsequently resided for 14 years in New York City for where he played with Reggie Workman, Steve Slagle, Kevin McNeil, Donald Byrd, Ed Schuler, Jim Pepper, Gene Jackson, Ira Coleman, Santi DeBriano and Dave Stryker among others.

For five years, he played in and composed for Second Sight with John Esposito, Jeff Siegel and Dave Douglas, recording two CDs, *Flying With The Comet* and *Tiger Tracks*, both on Sunjump Records. He appeared at various colleges, NYC clubs, the Greenwich Village Jazz Festival and live on Columbia University's WKCR. He played in the Cascais Portugal Jazz Fest and throughout Europe as a soloist. He was chosen to play for the National Public Radio memorial program for his colleague Jim Pepper.

Moving to Chicago in 1993 Chicago, Marx continued to work in New York while establishing himself on the Midwest Jazz scene, appearing in Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Little Rock, Milwaukee and Ann Arbor playing clubs, concert venues and festivals including Ravinia, and the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival in 2002 and 2003. He worked with Fred Anderson, Harrison Bankhead, Reuben Hoch's Chassidic Jazz Project, and Elbio Barilari, and performed at Chicago venues including, Millenium Park, the Velvet Lounge, Pete Miller's, the Green Mill and at Satalla, NYC. In 1999 Jeff recorded on *Reaching For A Star* by Don Bennett, which featured Malachi Thompson, Jesse Davis, and Harrison Bankhead.



[Link to INYO](#)

In 2000 he organized a band with pianist Michael Jefry Stevens, bassist Santi Debriano and drummer Jeff Siegel for his first outing as a leader, *Great Unknown* on his own Naugal label. He recorded his second CD as a leader *Treading Air Breathing Fire* (2003 Soluna Records) with John Esposito, piano, Ira Coleman, bass and Peter O'Brien, drums and featured several Marx compositions. Allaboutjazz reviewer Celeste Sunderland wrote that *Treading Air Breathing Fire* "...ponders metaphysical relations on an immense scale....while Marx wildly churns out vibrantly diverse streams of notes."

In 2006 Jeff recorded a duo CD with drummer Jeff "Siege" Siegel entitled *Dreamstuff* followed by a 2008 tour of Germany and the Czech Republic with Siegel and bassist Jaromir Honzak. Stuart Kremsky in Cadence described Marx's playing as "...varying his sound from rich and burred in the lower registers to shrill but controlled in the upper range, all the while having a vigorous give and take with Siegel....clearly enunciating (his) immersion in the Jazz tradition and (his) commitment to move the music forward."

Marx returned to Chicago in November 2008 to perform the music of Kahil Elzabar and Elbio Barilari at the Morse Theater on Presidential Inauguration evening, with an all star group of Chicago's best musicians.

A continuation of his work with drummer Jeff Siegel with the addition of pianist John Esposito resulted in the release of *Inyo* (2009 Sunjump) a CD that “.....could best be described as unquiet meditations or chaotic lyricism.... a true moment of musical Zen created by three masterful musicians.....saxophonist Jeff Marx takes some bold flights on the saxophone, ” wrote Jakob Baekgaard in allaboutjazz.com.

In 2011 Marx returned to Detroit as his base of operations. He visited New York to play concerts at Bard College, the Community Music Space in Redhook, NY and the Stone, NYC. He completed another CD recording with Esposito and Siegel titled *Tahrir* (Sunjump 2012) and prepared for a Spring 2012 tour of Germany and Austria.

Jeff Siegel

Drummer/Composer Jeff “Siege” Siegel is a veteran of the New York Jazz Scene and has worked with a virtual “who’s who” of artists. A member of the Sir Roland Hanna Trio from 1994-‘99, Siegel’s diverse career has also led him to perform and/or record with legends such as Ron Carter, Kenny Burrell, Jack DeJohnette, Benny Golson, Frank Foster, Shiela Jordan, Helen Merrill, Mose Allison and many more. He has also



[Link to Tahrir](#)

performed and/or recorded with the younger generation of musicians such as Dave Douglas, Stefon Harris, Kurt Elling, Ravi Coltrane, Ryan Kisor, Arturo O’Farrill, Steve Turre, Arthur Rhames and John Esposito.

He has worked in the avant garde world as well with Wadada Leo Smith, Baikida Carroll and others. He is co-leader of the Stevens, Siegel & Ferguson Trio, The New York Trio Project and The Jeff Marx/Jeff “Siege” Siegel Duo. Siegel has been described in *Jazz World Magazine* as a “brilliant drummer”, while lauded in *Modern Drummer* for his “forward energy and abundantly attractive ideas”. “His playing is always tasteful whether it be in forceful, intense situations or in

quiet, supporting roles. His writing is intriguing” notes the *Green Mountain Jazz Messenger*.

An active educator, Siegel teaches Jazz drumming at The New School in New York City, the State University of New York at New Paltz as well as at Western Connecticut State University. He has performed clinics throughout Europe and the United States. He holds a Masters Degree in Jazz from Queens College where he studied composition with Jimmy Heath and has subsequently been the recipient of several grants from Meet the Composer. He is an endorser for Vic Firth Drumsticks. His new CD “Live in Europe” featuring his quartet can be heard on the ARC record label.

John Esposito

John Esposito is an American pianist/composer/drummer/producer who works on a wide array of creative music projects. His technical skills and the range of his artistic palette extend across the stylistic boundaries of the Stride Piano, Swing, Bebop, Modal and Free Music movements. He has performed and recorded with artists including Nick Brignola, Dave Douglas, Dave Holland, Carter Jefferson, Franklin Kiermyer, Joe Lovano, J.R. Monterose, David "Fathead" Newman, Eric Person, Arthur Rhames, Sam Rivers, Roswell Rudd, Pharaoh Sanders and John Stubblefield.

John is the owner/executive producer of Sunjump Records. He has created music for theater, dance, film, TV commercials, and multimedia performance art. He is a music faculty member and Artist-In-Residence at Bard College and resides in New York State's Hudson Valley.

After attending SUNY Albany John worked as house pianist at the Gemini Jazz cafe for several years leading his own group with guest soloists including Nick Brignola and John Stubblefield and spent a year working in saxophonist J.R. Monterose's band.

He moved to New York City in 1980 and met the phenomenal, young saxophonist/pianist/guitarist Arthur Rhames while playing on guitarist Steve Geraci's Beat City label record date *Aliqae Song* with John Stubblefield and Rashied Ali. John worked in the Arthur Rhames Quartet for the next five years.

In 1985, John formed *Second Sight* – a quintet with trumpeter Dave Douglas, saxophonist Jeff Marx, and drummer Jeff Siegel They recorded *Flying With The Comet* in 1986, an album of John's original compositions released on John's independent label Sunjump Records followed by *Tiger Tracks* (1987). This five year period marked the beginning of John's work as a producer and in addition to *Second Sight's* music, Sunjump released a Jose Chalas record, *Living On Avenue F* and Marc Wagon's, *Shadowlines*.

Throughout the eighties John also worked with saxophonists Carter Jefferson, John Stubblefield, J.R. Monterose, Hugh Brodie, Greg Abate, Nick Brignola, Bobby Johnson Jr; Roswell Rudd, Beaver Harris, and many others.

In 1987 John moved to Woodstock, NY and in 1989 formed the FM Artists Coalition with saxophonist Erica Lindsay and bassist Anthony Cox. The group lasted three years beginning with a series of monthly house concerts, continuing with two years of co-productions with the Woodstock Guild in the Kleinert/James Gallery, culminating in August 1992 in a three day Jazz, Poetry and Visual Arts Festival at the Byrdcliff Barn. John produced 25 concerts for the FM Coalition and the 160 artists presented included Karl Berger, Tim Berne, Cindy Blackman, Baikida Carrol, Dave Douglas Tiny Bell Trio, Marilyn Crispell, Santi DeBriano, Jack DeJohnette, Dave Holland, Howard Johnson, and Wadada Leo Smith.

From 1990-92 John played regularly with the Glen Richmond trio at Fat Tuesday NYC, and solo piano at the Village Corner, Bradley's, NYC and the United Nations Building.

Beginning in 1993 John began working with the groups of Franklin Kiermyer and Eric Person as pianist and arranger. He recorded four albums with Kiermyer : *In The House Of My Fathers* (1993 Konnex) with Dave Douglas and John Stubblefield ; the critically acclaimed *Solomon's Daughter* (1994 Evidence) with tenor saxophonist Pharoah Sanders and bassist Drew Gress; *Kairos* (1996 Evidence) with the saxophonists Sam Rivers, Eric Person, Michael Stuart; and *Sanctification* (1999 Sunship) with saxophonist Michael Stuart and bassist Fima Ephron.

Gigs included Sweet Basil, NYC with Joe Lovano, Eric Person and Drew Gress; tours of the US including the San Francisco Jazz Festival at Yoshi's in Oakland, California; the Panasonic Jazz Festival at the Knitting Factory, NYC; Lincoln Center, NYC; a ten concert tour of Canadian Jazz Festivals including Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver. John also played on four albums with Eric Person's Meta Four beginning in 1996 with Eric's *More Tales to Tell* (Soulnote) with Dave Holland and Gene Jackson.

Gigs included NYC club appearances at the Blue Note, the Knitting Factory, and Visiones; tours of Jazz festivals and clubs including the Montreal Jazz Festival; Fresno CA Billy Higgins Festival; Savannah Jazz Festival; Texaco Jazz Festival, NYC; Newport/Friehoffer Jazz Festival Saratoga Springs, NY; Detroit Ford/Montreux Festival; Newport Jazz Festival, NYC ; and the Bell/Atlantic Festival, NYC. Media performances included broadcast of the Detroit Montreux concert on Branford Marsalis' Jazz Set on NPR.

John appeared on three more Eric Person CDs: *Extra Pressure* (2000) ; *Live At Big Sur* (2003); and *Reflections* (2006) with Dave Douglas and Kenny Davis. John toured with Eric Person's Meta Four in performances at the Guimaraes Jazz Festival, Portugal; the Blue Note, NYC; Big Sur Jazz Festival; Blues Alley, Washington, D.C.; Savannah Jazz Festival, GA; Jazz Factory, Louisville, KY; the Brooklyn Academy of Music; dozens of clubs and concerts and workshops at twenty colleges across the US. Featured media performances include a Knitting Factory concert and interview on BET Jazz and webcasts from the Bluenote and the Knitting Factory.

In 2002 John renewed his collaboration with saxophonist Jeff Marx on two CDs: *The Great Unknown* (Nauqual) and *Treading Air...Breathing Fire* (Soluna). John continued his work with Jeff Marx contributing four compositions to Jeff Marx/Jeff Siegel CD *Dreamstuff* (2005 Ayler Records) and playing piano and writing compositions for Esposito/Marx/Siegel *Inyo* (Sunjump 2009).

In 2006 John revitalized Sunjump Records which had been inactive since 1988 releasing John Esposito *Down Blue Marlin Road*, a deconstruction/reconstruction of some of Jazz's most over-played standards. The second was a quintet date of nine Esposito originals, *The Blue People*. He followed this in 2008 with John Esposito *A*

Book Of Five Rings ; Sangeeta Michael Berardi *Earthship*; and re-released *Second Sight Flying With The Comet*, on CD with three bonus tracks.

In 2009 John produced three releases: Steve Geraci's *Aliqae Song*, an archival recording of that first meeting with Arthur Rhames in 1980; the previously mentioned *Inyo* ; and Mitch Kessler's *Erratica*.

During this period John began experimenting with music/video duet improvisations with video artist/photographer Laura Steele, culminating in a concert at University of Chapel Hill, NC. In April 2009 John presented a multimedia concert with Laura Steele at Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, NY which combined through-composed and freely improvised music with Steele's real time video mixing using prerecorded images and live video feeds projected on four walls. Audience seating was configured in various geometric shapes throughout the space. The septet was divided into three segments placed in different parts of the hall.

John produced two Sunjump Records releases in 2010: flutist Jayna Nelson's *Bloom Of Creation*; and *Orisha*, his second trio CD with nine new originals.

2011 brought the release of Mitch Kessler's *Der Erlkonig*. Other recording projects in 2011 include the Esposito/Marx/Siegel trio CD *Tahrir* (release date March 2012) and the mixing/mastering of Sangeeta Michael Berardi's *Calling Coltrane* (release date January 2012).

A current undertaking is a collaboration with Sangeeta Michael Berardi on the music for a record date featured in the upcoming film *Playing With Parkinson's* by the noted Jazz documentary film maker Burrill Crohn. This documentary film of Berardi's life's work as a painter/poet/musician is undergoing the editing process. The CD tentatively titled *Mr P*, is scheduled for a summer 2012 Sunjump release.

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Bookings :

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