Terell Stafford, jazz trumpet

Terell Stafford has been hailed as "one of the great players of our time, a fabulous trumpet player" by piano legend McCoy Tyner. A renowned educator, performer and leader, he is recognized as a gifted and versatile musician with an expressive talent.

The Miami-born Stafford was raised in Chicago and Silver Spring, Maryland. He picked up trumpet at age 13, and played with the University of Maryland's Jazz band while pursuing a music education degree. In 1988, he met Wynton Marsalis who suggested he study at Rutgers University.

While earning his master's at Rutgers, Stafford joined Bobby Watson's group, Horizon. He performed with Watson, co-leader Victor Lewis and Shirley Scott, later joining her quintet and house band on You Bet Your Life. His association with Watson also led him to join McCoy Tyner's Latin All-Star Band Latin Jazz Band.

Since the mid-1990s, Stafford has performed with Benny Golson's Sextet, McCoy Tyner's Sextet, Kenny Barron Quintet, Frank Wess Quintet, Jimmy Heath Quintet and Big Band, Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra, Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Alumni Band. He has played in bands led by Cedar Walton, Sadao Watanabe, Herbie Mann, and Matt Wilson, and appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Rosie O'Donnell Show, You Bet Your Life and on NPR's Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center. Stafford followed his debut album, Time to Let Go (Candid 1995), with numerous award-winning releases. He appears on over 130 albums, and on TV and film scores including A Bronx Tale and the documentary Treme: Untold Story of Black New Orleans.

Stafford is the Director of Jazz Studies and Chair of Instrumental Studies at Temple University, founder and band leader of the Terell Stafford Quintet, and Managing and Artistic Director of the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia.

For more information about Terell Stafford, visit his website.