



"Brownman... one of the next great voices in the new generation of jazz improvisers."  
-- Randy Brecker, jazz trumpet legend & long-time mentor to Brownman

Born on the small Caribbean island of Trinidad, schooled in New York City under Randy Brecker's watchful eye and now heralded as "Canada's preeminent jazz trumpeter" by New York City's Village Voice magazine, the ever dynamic Brownman Ali tirelessly leading no less than 7 highly respected ensembles of his own spanning genres from be-bop to hip-hop. He is best known for his work as the leader of Canada's premiere latin-jazz ensemble CRUZAO (winners of the 2001 Montreal Jazz Fest's "Grand Prix du Jazz award" & 5-time nominee at the National Jazz Awards for "Electric Group of the Year") and his electrified Miles Davis' influenced BROWNMEN ELECTRYC TRIO (2007 National Jazz Award winner for "Electric Jazz Group of the Year" are amongst the many other accolades the group has received). He has garnered 11 nominations over the years at the National Jazz Awards (including 2 wins); Toronto's leading independent weekly NOW Magazine featured him as the cover story in 2003, naming him "Toronto's Best Jazz Musician" in 2006 and "Toronto's Jazz Trumpet Player of the Year" in 2007. Despite the demands of leading 7 ensembles & international touring he is still one of the most called upon trumpet players in the studio scene; his long list of recording credits, more than 300 to date over a staggering range of styles, make him "one of the most recorded trumpet players in Canadian history", according to CBC Radio Canada.

From 2006 to 2010, Brownman was the featured soloist with the legendary New York City jazz-hip-hop artist GURU (of Gangstarr fame) for his JAZZMATAZZ ensemble (replacing Donald Byrd in that group), catalyzing his appearing on the cover of CODA magazine, Canada's most acclaimed jazz publication. In Dec 2009, Brownman would launch his own independent record label Browntasaurus Records, with the BROWNMEN ELECTRYC TRIO (2007 National Jazz Award winners for "Electric Group of the Year") debut recording *Juggernaut* as it's flagship release, along with re-issues of his entire back-catalog from other groups he leads. In 2013 *Gravitation*, B.E.T.'s 2nd record was released.

Since returning to Canada from NYC, Brownman has been on the cutting edge of modern music in the nation for the last decade, winning multiple awards nationally, and achieving international recognition while touring the globe.

Brownman also holds a degree in physics, a minor in philosophy, writes the brass column for Canadian Musician Magazine and is an often called upon international lecturer and clinician on such topics as "advanced jazz harmony", "hip-hop and the modern jazz improviser" & "latin rhythms for the jazz improviser".

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES :

2016 Toronto Independent Music Award winner, "Jazz Group of the Year"  
2015 Toronto Independent Music Award winner, "Jazz Group of the Year"  
2015 Black Canadian Award nominee "Jazz Artist Of The Year"  
2015 International Independent Music Award winner "Fusion/Jam Album of the Year"  
2014 Independent Music Award nominee, "Jazz Group of the Year"  
2012 Independent Music Award winner, "Jazz Group of the Year"  
2012 Brownman named "2012 Artist To Watch" by Resonancity magazine  
2011 Trinidad High Commission citation "Distinguished National"  
2011 Brownman inducted into the "WHO'S WHO IN BLACK CANADA"  
2010 Independent Music Award nominee - Jazz Group of the Year  
2010 Artvoice Magazine nominee for Jazz Act of the Year  
2009 Brownman - named "favorite touring soloist by UK's Jazz After Dark"  
2008 Independent Music Award nominee - Jazz Group of the Year  
2008 National Jazz Award nominee - Electric Jazz Group of the Year  
2007 NOW Magazine's Toronto Jazz Trumpet Player of the Year  
2007 National Jazz Award winner - Electric Jazz Group of the Year  
2007 National Jazz Award nominee - Musician of the Year  
2007 National Jazz Award nominee - Latin-jazz artist of the Year  
2007 SOCAN National Jazz Award nominee - Composer of the Year  
2007 National Jazz Award nominee - Instrumentalist of the Year (flugelhorn)  
2006 National Jazz Award nominee - Latin-jazz artist of the Year  
2005 NOW Magazine's Toronto Jazz Artist of the Year  
2004 Independent Music Award nominee - Jazz Group of the Year  
2003 MARRON MATIZADO - Best Toronto Salsa Band (SalsaSPOT)  
2002 National Jazz Award winner - Jazz Composer of the Year  
2002 National Jazz Award nominee - Jazz Trumpet Player of the Year  
2001 Montreal Jazz Fest's Grand Prix Du Jazz Award winner  
2001 CRUZAO - winner of the CBC Galaxie Rising Star Award

## AS A LEADER:

Brownman currently leads and composes actively for 7 groups of his own, all of which have garnered critical acclaim in their own diverse idioms:

### CRUZAO

-- highly acclaimed multiple award-winning latin-jazz-urbania quintet

### CRUZAO GRUPO MONSTRUOSO

-- 15-man latin-jazz-urban orchestra permutation of CRUZAO

### GRUVASYLUM

-- hip-hop, drum'n'bass and breakbeats... with a jazz ideology

### BROWNMEN ELECTRYC TRIO

-- electrified award-winning trio in the spirit of Miles Davis' electric years

### BROWNMEN AKAUSTIC TRIO / 4'tet / 5'tet

-- mainstream hard-swinging NYC-style jazz.

### MARRÓN MATIZADO

-- 11-man highly energized Salsa powerhouse

### ARECIBO

-- modern deeply exploratory latin-jazz quartet



## QUOTES:

"Awards are nice, naturally, but to dig what Brownman is doing, you've got to see him live... I came away with a blown mind. This guy's got chops galore, soul to match, and a sense of phrasing that recalls many of the greats, but suggests itself to be his own."

-- Jeff Miers, *New York Post*

"... one of the next great voices in the new generation of jazz improvisers"

-- Randy Brecker, *Grammy award winning trumpeter*



"... a great writer, energized trumpeter and thoughtful evolved soloist"

-- John Scofield, *legendary jazz guitarist*

"... uniquely creative and fearless... like a young Miles Davis"

- Guru, *legendary hip-hop icon from Gangstarr/Jazzmatazz fame*

"... extraordinarily talented... a modernist for sure... a truly gifted improviser with an original creative voice"

-- Gary Bartz, *saxophonist to Miles Davis in the 70's*



"... Canada's preeminent jazz trumpeter"

-- Village Voice, *New York City*

"... energy is never in short supply in Brownman's world. This Toronto/Trinidadian trumpeter loves skipping from style to style almost as much as he digs mixing it up with the jazz elite"

-- NOW magazine, *Toronto (cover story)*

"...deliciously quirky & invigorating... seethes with energy... "

-- Toronto Star



"... the most versatile hornman in Canada"

-- Chicago Tribune

"... virtuostic, energized and in the spirit of Miles Davis"

-- National Post

"... a warm, personable soloist displaying an engaging mix of quirks and lyricism."

-- Globe and Mail



"Brownman Ali's powerful electrified trio captures the essence of the later years in Miles Davis' life, his electric period, without imitation."

-- JazzOnline.com

"Brownman plays with fire and intensity ... every track executed with skill and feeling ... it's visceral and edgy..."

-- Errol Nazareth, *The Toronto Sun*

"Guru's Jazzmatazz trumpet player brings virtuosity and panache in jazz together in his Electryc Trio"

-- CBC Radio Canada



"Brownman is lively, entertaining and hip ... the atmosphere is seriously funky... his music muscular, quick, and thrilling..."

-- Whole Note Magazine

"It's hard to imagine him being more in the pocket, more energetic."

-- The Ottawa Citizen