

MASTERCLASS / CLINIC / WORKSHOP OPTIONS

-- BROWNMEN ALI --

2x National Jazz Award Winner, multi-JUNO Award nominee & GRAMMY Award long-lister **Brownman Ali** is a highly in-demand masterclass clinician at both the highschool and university level, often brought in to discuss a myriad of topics. He is a world-renowned specialist in 3 fields -- Jazz, Latin music & Black American Music artforms (hip-hop in particular).

Below are a list of some of the previous clinics & masterclasses he's given:

Methodologies for Improvising

As a top-tier multi-award winning soloist, Brown has developed a method for teaching improvisation to any age, any ability level. He just needs to know in advance the approximate age and performance level of the students, in order to adjust his teaching methods accordingly. ie -- Grade 9 band kids need a very different approach than 4th year University Jazz majors. This workshop is the most sought after by schools with Jazz programs, as having a multi-award winning soloist demystify the inner workings of "how to improvise and solo" is something many teachers barely understand themselves.

Jazz Harmony 101

A basic look at jazz harmony -- vital to beginning jazz improvisers. Intervals, triads, 7-chords, and *some* advanced harmony are all covered and then applied to modern improvising language.

Jazz Harmony 201

A more advanced look at jazz harmony, dealing with more advanced chord structures and associated chord-scale relationships and -- most importantly -- how to implement that knowledge into creating cogent line-construction during improvisation.

The Rhythm Section

A workshop geared at how any rhythm section should function -- drum and bass interaction, chordal instrument integration, methodologies for supporting the soloist, the vital underpinning function of the drums -- is all covered.

Miles Davis -- A History Of

Brown has a PH.D in the legendary Miles Davis, and will lead an audience through his entire career, with audio samples over 1.5 hours, discussing how this singular artist impacted and continually evolved the Jazz genre, changing directions 5 times over his career and spearheading new explorations in jazz. Very popular in libraries and institutes dealing with history.

Hip-hop -- A History Of

Brown is now in the hip-hop history books after his 5 years with the iconic Guru's Jazzmatazz and now tours with the likes of Jay-z, Kanye West & Missy Elliot. In this workshop Brown takes the audience through the entire history of hip-hop, with audio examples, discussing how the artform spang from Bronx, to become a world-wide phenomenon. Brown will reference his own experience leading an award-winning jazz-hip-hop group of his own: GRUVASYLUM.

[Hear Brownman & GRUVASYLUM on YouTube Music →

https://music.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_miRVGzXvKjM-Y4HQAGZPbRGG7xwNvCqAM]

An Introduction to Latin Rhythms

As the leader of CRUZAO, Canada's premiere Latin-jazz group and as one of the most called upon trumpet players in the New York and Toronto Salsa scenes, Brown has much knowledge to share on the basics of Cuban and Brazilian rhythms.

This workshop can be tailored for beginners -- all the way up to working/touring music professionals who want to understand Latin rhythms more thoroughly.

[Hear Brownman & CRUZAO on YouTube Music →

https://music.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kq61jZWWh057BdkkVbLfSCrlmXBwKc3LsQ]

Composition Methodologies

A look at how this 2x National Jazz Award winner for "Canadian Jazz Composer of the Year" and 2025 International Song-writing competition winner (1st place amongst 17,000 applicant across 120 countries world-wide!) approaches writing original music. In this workshop Brown will break down how he writes from the perspective of melody, rhythm and harmony, and demonstrate how many of his own award-winning compositions came into existence. He will play some of his compositions and arrangements, and then break-down and dissect his writing process for students, ending in a Q&A for students.

The Rise of Brownman Ali

This was a talk the Montreal Jazz Fest asked Brown to give after he won their coveted "Montreal Grand Prix du Jazz", where he essentially discusses his ascent from being born in Trinidad, to his parents immigrating to Canada, growing up in Bramalea, a suburb of Toronto and being a known quantity in the Toronto scene, how winning the Grand Prix du Jazz launched him nationally, how moving to Brooklyn & studying with the legendary Grammy-winning trumpeter Randy Brecker changed his life, how the legendary GURU grabbing him and putting him in the hip-hop history books as the soloist for Guru's Jazzmatazz further changed his life, leading to people like Jay-z, Missy Elliot, Quincy Jones and Paul Simon all wanting him as their featured soloist, to starting his own record label in Brooklyn, NY to touring the globe and the recent (last week's!!!) JUNO nomination.

[See BRAVO! channel's 2007 documentary on his life: "The Life & Times of Brown"

: <https://vimeo.com/16725046>]

Literacy talks

Brown is also a strong advocate for literacy in Canada and the US, feels we're all getting dumber because we're reading less and less, so often gives talks on the importance of books and reading in this day and age, and how most of his own award-winning compositions were inspired by literature. You can see him talking about this on stage at the very beginning of this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCff--TfSdc&list=PLFEa9tcDLHdKTrRNqszOlzz6CokQ_f-6P&index=7

Brown reads, on average 3 books a week (!), so is a strong advocate for literacy.

Youth talks

Coming up poor & as a person-of-colour gives Brown a unique perspective on the world. We have a strong mandate for Youth Education and Brown has a manner with kids that make them listen. Many have asked him to come and "talk to the kids" over the years, as a Commencement speaker, as an advocate for literacy or science (Brown's 1st degree was a B.Sc in Physics!!!), or just to talk about living as a musician. He's often happy to talk about whatever a thoughtful presenter can dream up.

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Here's are some Insta pics of a workshop he did with the Durham Jazz school retreat:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CzR2GRDvpu1/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CzR8DSav5kd/>

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Below are biographical details on this Artist and other useful links that we ask be provided to students in advance of his arrival as a Clinician, so they are aptly armed with knowledge of the Artist speaking with them -->

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About **BROWNMAN ALI**

Trinidadian-born, NYC-schooled & heralded as "Canada's preeminent Jazz trumpeter" by NYC's Village Voice -- multi-award winning trumpet player Brownman Ali stands at the forefront of innovation in the Canadian jazz community. A protégé to his teacher, Grammy-winning trumpet legend, Randy Brecker, he tirelessly leads 8 unique ensembles of his own including the internationally acclaimed Miles Davis influenced BROWNMAN ELECTRYC TRIO, and the award-winning CRUZAOLatin-jazz quintet. In 2009 he launched his own record label: Browntasauras Records, which saw the Electryc Trio's flagship release "Juggernaut" shoot to number 3 on the iTunes USA jazz charts. The label is now a home to all his ensembles and is an incubator for a new generation of forward-minded jazz artists.

In high demand in the studio world with over 300 CD appearances to date, Brownman delivers stylistically authentic horn playing over a wide range of styles from bebop to hip-hop having recorded or toured with the likes of Guru's Jazzmatazz (replacing Donald Byrd in that primordial ensemble), Mos Def, KRS-1, Jay-Z, Missy Elliot, Quincy Jones, Paul Simon, Mingus Dynasty Big Band, Gary Bartz, John Scofield, Wayne Shorter, Chucho Valdes & far too many more to name here.

Brownman – now splitting his time between Brooklyn, NY and Toronto, ON is nationally recognized as one of the most unique and provocative improvising trumpet players in North America and is widely regarded as a vanguard for the evolution of Jazz in Canada.

Brownman is a multiple JUNO Award nominee, a GRAMMY Award long-lister, and, as a highly decorated player -- his awards & accolades include 2 National Jazz Awards (with 11 nominations over the years), Montreal Jazz Fest's "Grand Prix Du Jazz" award, a CBC Galaxie Rising Star award, a SOCAN composers award, an International Independent Music Award for "Album of the Year", winning the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) in the Jazz Category, 7 Toronto Independent Music Awards "jazz artist of the year", 10 Global Music Awards, a Black Canadian Award nomination for "Jazz Musician of the Year", a Caribbean Music & Entertainment Award for "Jazz Artist Of The Year", an induction into the WHO'S WHO IN BLACK CANADA, a Black IMPACT award for "Artist of the Year", a [BRAVO! channel documentary on his life](#), NOW magazine naming him "Toronto's Best Jazz Musician", CBC Radio Canada named him "one of the most recorded trumpet players in Canadian history", NPR in New York calls him "the new standard in electric jazz", the Trinidad & Tobago Consulate General awarded him with a citation for being a "Distinguished National of Trinidad", is listed by Air Canada as one of the "Top 10 reasons to visit Toronto".

Looking towards the future, Brownman Ali seems poised to continue defying expectations and shaping the sound of jazz for generations to come, much like his idol Miles Davis did throughout his own legendary career.

Full length bio (PDF):

<https://storage.brownman.com/Bios/BrownBio-2024.pdf>

Video links:

Brownman Music Archive on YouTube (100's of videos from around the globe, collected in one place -- use the PlayLists to navigate to content)

<https://www.youtube.com/@BrownmanMusicArchives>

(please subscribe!)

Videos of 2x National Jazz Award winners **BROWNMAN ELECTRYC TRIO** in full flight!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iJWvLue3Qk&list=PLFECA3E452FE2BC0D>

"Brownman Electryc Trio collides Black American music artforms with modern electric-jazz with incredible panache, showing trumpet Brownman Ali's virtuosity and often colliding hip-hop with Miles Davis-esque grooves" -- Chicago Tribune

Additional recent Videos of BROWNMAN as the featured soloist with Nick Maclean Quartet:

Road Warrior (fast tempo, modern NYC jazz, where Brown's Freddie Hubbard like language can be seen)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfOno29FcXM&list=PLFEa9tcDLHdKTrRNqszOlzz6CokQ_f-6P&index=1

Dolphin Dance (beautiful Herbie Hancock tune featuring Brown's rich, full tone)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61856iZ_0c&list=PLFEa9tcDLHdKTrRNqszOlzz6CokQ_f-6P&index=2

Verboten (a funkified groove where Randy Brecker's mentorship can be heard in Brown's approach)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lexWg8YLXDQ&list=PLFEa9tcDLHdKTrRNqszOlzz6CokQ_f-6P&index=3

Wisdom Of Aurelius (Brown's spirited Cuban original – WINNER of the International Song-writing Competition, from 17,000 submissions across 120 countries).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cPAbdH6gkM&list=PLFEa9tcDLHdKTrRNqszOlzz6CokQ_f-6P&index=4

Hear 100s of tracks of Brownman's work as a studio musician

www.Spotify.Brownman.com

100+ tracks of Brown's extensive work as a studio musician, appearing on over 300 recordings as both sideman and leader, this Spotify Playlist highlights the vastness of his work.

Images of Brownman

<https://brownman.com/pages-MediaPhotos.htm>

www.Browntasauras.com

Brownman's Brooklyn based jazz record label for which he is the CEO. The label's mandate is to "catalyze the creation of new jazz art" and is unique in that 100% of all proceeds go back to the Artists on the label! Below is a link to an article from acclaimed music journalist Terry Pender detailing the history of the label:

[Browntasauras Records: as eclectic as it's owner](#)

www.YouTube.Browntasauras.com

www.Spotify.Browntasauras.com

The entire Browntasauras Records Catalog on YouTube Music and Spotify!

SOCIALS

www.Instagram.com/BrownmanMusic (Instagram Artist)

www.Instagram.com/BrowntasaurasRecords (Instagram Label)

www.Facebook.com/BrownmanMusic (Facebook Artist)

www.Facebook.com/BrowntasaurasRecords (Facebook Label)

www.YouTube.Brownman.com (YouTube Music Archive)

www.Links.Brownman.com (Useful Links)

www.Gigs.Brownman.com (Gig Schedule)