

Matt Niess/ LONG BIO

Since 1988 Matt Niess has served as lead trombonist with The US Army Blues Jazz Ensemble based in Washington, DC. He is from Levittown, PA where he attended Woodrow Wilson High School.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Instrumental Music Education from West Chester University in 1986 and Masters' in Trombone Performance from George Mason University in 1996.

He was director of bands at Calvert High School in Prince Frederick, MD from 1986-1988, has taught on the jazz faculties of Shenandoah and Towson Universities and served as director of jazz studies and professor of trombone at West Chester University from 2003-2007.

With The Army Blues he has served as Senior Producer and Jazz Coordinator of the Eastern Trombone Workshop producing over 200 concerts at various venues from The White House to the Monterey, CA Jazz Festival.

He is the founder and director of The Capitol Bones, a jazz trombone ensemble, which has received national recognition and was winner of the 1991 International Trombone Association Kai Winging Award.

He has appeared as a soloist, clinician, and adjudicator at numerous jazz festivals, universities and schools. These venues include The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, IAJE, ITA, ETW, MENC, PMEA, VMEA, University of Las Vegas, University of North Texas, West Virginia University, Disneyland & Disneyworld All-American College Band, James Madison University, UARTS, University of Utah, The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Longwood College, The U.S. Air Force "Noteables", Mary Washington College, Shepherd College, University of Kentucky, University of Texas, George Mason University, University of Wisconsin, Towson University, University of North Carolina, Shenandoah University, Longwood College, West Chester University, University of Tennessee and others.

With The Army Blues he has performed with Clark Terry, Doc Severinsen, Bill Watrous, Phil Wilson, Conrad Herwig, Carl Fontana, Don Menza, Chris Potter, John Clayton, Alabama, Rany Travis, Ertha Kitt, Allen Vizutti, Jon Faddis, The New York Voices, Terrell Stafford, Michael Abene, Dave Steinmeyer, Steve Turre, Tim Hagens, John Swana, James Moody, Buddy DeFranco, Dr. Billy Taylor, Bob Curnow, Mike Tomaro and many others. Venues include numerous Universities, schools and jazz festivals, I.A.J.E., ETW, The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, MENC, The Montreux Jazz Festival, The Monterey Jazz Festival, Elkhart Jazz Festival, International Trombone Festival, National Trumpet Competition, The Trumpet Guild, Performances abroad include Germany, Switzerland, Kuwait, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Norway and Sweden.

As a sideman he has performed with Ray Charles, Shirley Jones, The Temptations, Diane Shuur, Joan Rivers, The Ink Spots, Merv Griffin, Mel Torme, Frank Sinatra Jr., Ben Vereen, The Four Tops, The Manhattan Transfer, Pia Zadora, The Smithsonian Masterworks Orchestra, David Baker, The Rob Parton Jazz Tech Big Band, The Gene Krupa Orchestra, Slide Hampton and many others.

He has produced CDs with The US Army Blues Jazz Ensemble, The West Chester University Criterions Jazz Ensemble, The Capitol Bones and The Capitol Bones Big Band and has appeared on many recordings to include The Mark Taylor/Steve Fidyk Big Band, The New Gene Krupa Orchestra, Graham Breedlove, Doug Hamilton, The Mike Tomaro Big Band, over 50 recordings with The Studio A Big Band and The Washington Winds, Warner Bros. Publications, FJH Music, Carl Fischer Music, Belwin Publications and Hal Leonard Publications. He has also recorded sound tracks for FOX TV, HBO, Discovery and TLC.

Matt Niess is a SeaBreeze recording artist and performs on a Courtois trombone.