



JAMES MORRISON

Biography

The Australian James Morrison counts among the most outstanding musicians of the past few years. Besides the trumpet, this multi-instrumentalist also plays trombone, euphonium, flugelhorn, saxophone, and piano.

At the age of seven, he was given his first instrument. At nine, he formed his first own group, and at thirteen, he started with his first gigs. His international career developed as fast and steeply. Just turned 17 James Morrison debuts in the USA with a breathtaking concert at the Monterey Jazz Festival. The Monterey Jazz Festival, the big festivals in Europe - Montreux, Pori, North Sea - performances with all notables and big names of jazz: **Dizzy Gillespie, Cab Calloway, Woody Shaw, George Benson, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Ray Brown, Lalo Schifrin, Frank Sinatra**. It has taken other musicians, especially whites, decades to gain similar references.

James' concert at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1988 was recorded by music industry legend and jazz buff **Neshuhi Ertegun**, which made Morrison the first musician to be recorded for Neshuhi Ertegun's jazz label East-West. - Sadly, Neshuhi's untimely death ensures that "**Swiss Encounters**" is one of the few East-West releases then.

In 1989 James joined **Gene Harris' Philipp Morris Superband** which not only took him around the world but also put him alongside some of the world's finest jazzmusicians like **Ray Brown, Jeff Hamilton** or **Herb Ellis**. The 1990 release of the legendary "**Snappy Doo**" album, a "Solo-Big Band" album in which the multi-instrumentalist shows what "multi" really means by playing all the big band instruments himself except for drums and bass, earns James Morrison the title as "The best Big Band in the world". The same year James Morrison appears for the first time with his own band on a club-tour in Europe.

1992 "**Two The Max**" is released by East-West, an album featuring bassist **Ray Brown**, drummer **Jeff Hamilton** and pianist **Benny Green** that was recorded in a 16 hour recording session in Los Angeles. The album release is supported by a world tour of James with the Ray Brown Trio called "Tour the Max". With this tour and album James becomes a household name all around the world and jazz critics are enthusiastic about his performances. In spring of 1994 James formed his new band called the "**Hot Horn Happening**" which included **Jeff Clayton** (sax), **Rickey Woodard** (sax), **Mark Nightingale** (tb), **Brian Kellock** (p), **Martin Wind** (b) and his



brother **John Morrison** (dr). The Band only played originals by James Morrison, and was recorded during a concert at the prestigious "New Morning" jazz club in Paris. The album was released in 1995 and won critical acclaim all over. With "Hot Horn Happening" James toured the world until the end of 1996.

In 1997 James received a very special honor for his accomplishments in the world of entertainment. Her Royal Majesty The Queen Of England named James Morrison "Member of the Order of Australia".

1998 will see the birth of the new **James Morrison Quartet** in which James not only plays the different horns like trumpet, trombone, euphonium, saxophone, but also the piano. One of Morrison's favourite effects at live-concerts is to appear on stage with his complete equipment of instruments and to deliver soli by "flying change" - such brilliant moves being always a breathtaking sight to his fellows. The last years have seen James more and more as a guest artist with different outfits from Big Bands to Brass Bands and even to Symphony Orchestras always leaving a stunned audience. No matter if as guest for the "National Brass Band Championship" final concert in London's "Royal Albert Hall" or as member of "Jazz Meets the Symphony" in Salzburg's "Festspielhaus" standing ovations that seem to find no end, "bravos" and "da capos" follow James wherever he goes.

Another matter of major interest to the media are his hobbies!

He does not gain his "kicks" from extensive consumption of alcohol or drugs, but from flying his private plane, driving the national rally championship, or "abseiling" and "bunji-jumping". So one of the major Australian newspaper headlined: "What will this multi-talented jazz-instrumentalist try next? The glockenspiel in a space shuttle?" - And they could be right.

About JAMES MORRISON

"... James Morrison is as sure a bet for jazz superstardom as Wynton Marsalis was in 1981"

Leonard Feather in "Down Beat"

"It is this contrast that makes James Morrison one of the most sensational new players to arrive in many moons. A Grammy might very well be set aside for this one."

Hugh Wyatt in "The New York Daily News"

"Known as 'Mister Multi' he gives new dimension to the term multi-instrumentalist."

"Musically, he can do absolutely everything - high, low, fast, slow. It's all in tune, in time and respectful of dynamics. You might think maybe it comes too easy, it's too perfect."

Mike Zwerin in "The International Herald Tribune"

"Even more impressive than Morrison's massive technique is the way he builds wonderfully melodic solo masterpieces: It's like Stan Getz on the trumpet."

Jose Brown in "The Times Tribune California"

"Man, James Morrison can play - he's a great musician!"

Wynton Marsalis in "The Sydney Daily Telegraph"

"... a standing ovation, after Morrison and his musicians had delivered the most vivacious concert of the entire [Brecon] festival."

Clive Davis in "The Times" - London

"Wynton Marsalis will have to think about practicing again, for to judge by

the reactions of the public, a superstar of the traditional is being heralded here."

Ljubisa Tosic in "Der Standard" Wien

"It's not surprising to me for James playing all styles of music and be very good at it. That happens in many places in the world, but he is one of the best!"

Dizzy Gillespie in "The Wizard Of Oz"

"The movies have 'Crocodile Dundee', jazz has James Morrison. [...] audiences at clubs in major cities have marvelled at his mastery of the trombone, trumpet, euphonium, flugelhorn, alto saxophone and piano. [...] little doubt that he could be the next jazz superstar."

Leonard Feather in "The Los AngelesTimes"

"Indeed Morrison's virtuosity is so towering that he's not only competing with Wynton Marsalis for the No. 1 trumpet spot among today's young players, but is the first white trumpeter since Red Rodney surfaced in the '40s to be recognized by the jazz cognoscenti...."

"Morrison has a greater awareness of the blues and the art of improvisation - the essential ingredients in jazz - than many American players."

"Unlike Marsalis, however, Morrison is rapidly developing his own original style on his various instruments"

"Morrison has made all the proper moves and should be applauded as one of a handful of the most vital new jazzmen to surface in two decades."

Hugh Wyatt in "The New York Daily News"

"The Genius"

Ray Brown's name for James Morrison