

# RALPH LALAMA

"a mainstay on the New York jazz scene"  
– *Jazziz Online*

"Lalama is a grand, modern-minded storyteller...a  
first-class jazz soloist." – *Zan Stewart*

"...leaped in with a series of breaks  
and pushed forward with his  
spacious sound, relaxed swing, and  
storytelling logic." – *The Village  
Voice*

"...proves himself a master  
improviser with a rich,  
supple tone and an  
abundance of musical deas."  
– *AllAboutJazz*

2013-2014  
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# Biography

**Ralph Lalama** graduated from The Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University (Ohio) and was recognized there for his remarkable talent by the legendary Thad Jones, who encouraged him to come to New York.

Since that time, Lalama has reached a dignified status as a widely respected master of the tenor through his achievements in the big bands of Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Carla Bley and the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra — now the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra — with whom he is a featured soloist on Monday nights at New York’s Village Vanguard.

He appears on three Joe Lovano Nonet releases on Blue Note: the Grammy Award-winning, “52nd Street Themes,” (2001), “On This Day...At The Vanguard,” (2005), and “Streams of Expression” (2006). In 2005 he celebrated another Grammy-winning release with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra’s, “The Way – The Music of Slide Hampton.”

He has combined talents on a number of projects with his equally acclaimed musical brother, pianist/composer/ arranger/ educator Dave Lalama, on a 2010 release entitled “Family Portrait”. 2011 saw the



Lalama Brothers release “Erie Avenue” with bassist Peter Washington, drummer Kenny Washington and special guest Joe Lovano. In 2012, Lalama releases his “Bop Juice: Ralph Lalama Trio, Live at Smalls.”

When not busy touring, he dedicates his time to teaching as an adjunct professor at New York University and SUNY Purchase. One of his students received two consecutive National DownBeat Awards for Best High School Jazz Soloist. He is a founding member of New York’s Westchester (County) Jazz Orchestra (WJO) and is active in their educational outreach program to jazz students. As a guest clinician, he has taught at Eastman School of Music, University of Memphis, University of Louisville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Temple University.

# Workshops & Clinics

Ralph Lalama is known for his engaging personality that enlivens the learning experience and brings the material to life.



- Improvisation
- Memorization Techniques
- Large Ensemble
- Small Ensemble
- Woodwind Doubling
- Maintaining a Positive Attitude to Enhance Your Career
- The Music Business
- Professionalism

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