

ROMÁN FILIÚ is a Cuban alto saxophone player with an open mind, a unique sound and is in constant evolution. He graduated from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana in classical saxophone. He was part of the prestigious AfroCuban band IRAKERE led by piano player Chucho Valdés. Throughout his career Filiú has worked with renowned musicians like Omara Portuondo, Doug Hammond, Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Dafnis Prieto, among many others.

Teachers: Roberto Benitez and Miguel Angel Villafruela (classical saxophone, Cuba).

Influences: Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Steve Coleman, Henry Threadgill, Muhai Richard Abrams and others.

Current Projects: Working on new music for the Latin Sax Quartet and for Cubindus, a new group with Rez Abbasi (guitar), Aruán Ortiz (piano) and Mike Sarin (drums). Also playing in different projects as David Virelles Continuum, Sam Harris' St. Magdalena In Outer Space and with my own band playing the music of *Musae* (Dafnison Music, 2012).

By Day: I wake up at 7:30 am and by 9 am I have already started working on music.

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... my father played every day for us Prokofiev's *Peter and The Wolf* around the age of four.

Dream Band: I do not have a single dream band, but many and they also change as my musical path evolves.

Did you know? I started on piano at the age of eight.

For more information, visit romanfiliu.com. Filiú is at Vision Festival Jun. 12th as part of its Milford Graves Lifetime Achievement Celebration and The Jazz Gallery Jun. 13th with Sam Harris. See Calendar.



Román Filiú



Gregg August

Bassist/composer GREGG AUGUST spans the jazz, Latin jazz, classical and avant garde scenes, making him one of the most versatile musicians on the scene today. A member of the JD Allen Trio since 2007, he is Principal Bass of the Brooklyn Philharmonic as well as the bassist with Arturo O'Farrill's Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. In addition, he works regularly with the new music organization Bang on a Can. In 2003, he formed his own group and has recorded three critically acclaimed albums of entirely original music. August is

on faculty at The University of Connecticut, New Jersey City University and Queens College.

Teachers: Homer Mensch, Bill Dobbins, Rufus Reid.

Influences: Jimmy Garrison, Cachao, Ahmad Jamal, Sonny Rollins, György Ligeti, Duke Ellington, Jordi Savall.

Current Projects: My quartet; composing an orchestra piece based on Cuban rumba polyrhythms for the Buffalo Philharmonic and about to record my large ensemble piece, "Dialogues on Race", which was composed in 2009 through a Jazz Gallery commission.

By Day: Listen to music that I'm unfamiliar with, write, practice bass and listen to music that I am familiar with.

I knew I wanted to be a musician when... I was six years old and heard the drums at a rehearsal of my father's band. I played drums up until college, when I began to study bass.

Dream Band: Quintet with Branford Marsalis, Charlie Parker, Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Tony Williams.

Did you know? I was born with six fingers on my left hand, but one was removed when I was three weeks old.

For more information, visit greggaugust.com. August is at Smalls Jun. 5th. See Calendar.