

About Paul Combs

Musician, composer, educator and author Paul Combs began his career as a professional musician in 1963, while still in high school. Since then he has maintained a diverse career, performing and recording in several idioms, but he is known primarily as a jazz musician, composer and arranger. He has recorded with a variety of musicians, and is a voting member of NARAS, which gives the Grammy Awards. His most recent CD, *Live At Chit Chat*, was released by the Sea Breeze Jazz label. Currently he performs with his own groups, The Pocket Big Band and Tadd's Delight, and directs the Jazz Ensemble of the Chelmsford Community Band. As a composer, Combs has written for film, theater, radio and television. His arrangements and compositions are published by BoMuse Music and distributed by Otter Distributors.

As an educator, his experience goes back to 1965 when he worked as a teacher's assistant in the very beginning days of Head Start. He began teaching instruments privately in 1970 at the Miriam Sheppard Studio in Philadelphia. Over the years Combs has taught instrumental and general music in public, private and parochial schools, including the Danvers and Revere Public Schools. In the 1990s he was very active in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association as one of the founding members of the Society for General Music in Massachusetts, and in other capacities. He is currently the Jazz Education column editor of *Massachusetts Music News*, the quarterly journal of MMEA, and the Newsletter Editor and Publicity officer of the Massachusetts State Unit of IAJE*.

As an author, Paul Combs has written about musical topics for various magazines, including *School Band and Orchestra* and *Jazz Improv*. He is currently preparing *Dameronia - The Life and Music of Tadd Dameron*, for publication by the University of Michigan Press. Dameron was one of the key figures in the development of modern jazz. While as an arranger and composer he is not as well known as his colleagues and friends Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk, his contributions were of equal significance. Dameron's work also exhibits great lyrical beauty, and several of his works remain popular with jazz musicians to this day.

Paul Combs earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition from the Philadelphia Musical Academy. He earned his Master of Music in Performance from University of Massachusetts Lowell, where he also studied for certification in Orff-Schulwerk. He has also attended Longy School of Music and the Creative Music Studio, where he studied with Karl Berger, Anthony Braxton, Jimmy Giuffre and Lee Konitz, among others.

* While the IAJE - The International Association for Jazz Education no longer exists, the Massachusetts State Unit, as many other state units, is still functioning and healthy as an organization.