

*"To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable."* - Ludwig van Beethoven

## DR. BRUCE ESKOVITZ

WOODWIND ARTIST

By Thomas Fitzgerald    Photos by Mark Maryanovich

Influenced by his father, who was a US Army saxophone player at the Presidio in San Francisco at the end of World War I, Dr. Bruce Eskovitz was 11 when he fell in love with the sound of the tenor saxophone.

By the age of 13, Dr. Bruce's professional playing career began as a member of a youth community orchestra. While other Southern California teenagers tuned in to rock n' roll, Bruce hung out with Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane, and Stan Getz records until he could play their sound.

When Bruce was 20, he was composing music for *The Merv Griffin Show*. He remembers handing Plas Johnson and Ray Brown his tunes and was encouraged by their positive reaction.

Today, Dr. Bruce plays soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones, flutes, and clarinets, and



has performed and recorded with many great and diverse artists and celebrities. These include Joe Cocker, Natalie Cole, Doc Severinsen, Rosemary Clooney, Dwight Yoakum, The Fifth Dimension, Bobby Vinton, and Ernie Watts.

An in-demand jazz artist playing the L.A. jazz club scene, Dr. Bruce preforms regularly at Catalina Bar and Grill, Charlie O's, Steamers, Jax Bar and Grill, The Santa Barbara Jazz Festival, Beverly Hills Affaire in the Garden, The Lighthouse, Café 322, Industry Café & Jazz, and Cava.

Some of his other compositional and performance credentials include the Los Angeles productions of *Beatlemania* and *Timbuktu*, *The John Davidson Show*, *The Danny Gans Show*, The Ebony/Jet Celebrity Showcase, the ABC TV show *Santa Barbara*, Ollie Mitchell's Sunday Band, Frank Capp's Juggernaut, and The New American Orchestra.

As a music teacher, Dr. Bruce provides compassionate, committed, individualized instruction via ZOOM and in-person at his studio. He accepts all ambitious students at all levels. His sessions last one hour.

- Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Jazz Improvisation



- Jazz Composition & Theory
- Arranging & Music Production

"One of my goals with my students is to have them ready and able to improvise without accompaniment, and have the structure and form of the tune clearly known and cleanly executed," says Dr. Bruce, who is director of the instrumental music program at Windward School in West LA.

"Middle and high-school students are very busy with sports and scholastics. The old-school philosophy preached practicing for an hour. I suggest my students practice for 10 to 15 minutes four or five times a day," says Dr. Bruce. "Shorter intervals translate into higher focus and getting more accomplished."

Dr. Bruce is a patient instructor and understands it takes three to six months to develop basic skills. Once the basics are learned, the student is never excused from preliminary studies.



"Nobody learns how to play an instrument within a week. But even after playing for one year, students need to practice the basics regularly," says Dr. Bruce, who is the founder of the award winning Jazz Music Studies Program at Crossroads School for the Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica. "No musician, myself included, no matter how skilled, stops playing scales, long tones, and exercises."

Dr. Bruce teaches his students that being a musician is not about being better than another musician; rather, playing music is about confidently playing alongside other musicians and contributing to the overall energy of the music.

On another performance note, Dr. Bruce fronts for BEJO (Bruce Eskovitz Jazz Orchestra) his band that features some of the best jazz musicians in LA. Dr. Bruce and BEJO are available for jazz festivals, movie/TV soundtracks, recordings, concerts, club dates, college, high school, and middle school appearances, and clinics.

323.610.1111 / [DrBruceJazz.com](http://DrBruceJazz.com)

*Dr. Bruce earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from CSUN, and from USC a Master degree in jazz studies and a Doctorate degree of musical arts in jazz composition. Previously he was a full time lecturer at USC where he directed the Jazz Ensemble Program, taught jazz theory, as well as saxophone and jazz improvisation.*

**Dr. Bruce Eskovitz**  
"LEARN TO BURN"

Study Music with an Award-Winning Master Educator & Jazz Artist  
Inviting **AMBITIOUS** Students at all levels

"His teaching displayed a thorough understanding of my individual needs..." - Jordan

"Dr. Bruce ....can demystify complex concepts and provide memorable and meaningful instruction to any student who is committed to learning." - Stephanie

Compassionate, Individualized Instruction in:

Saxophone-Clarinet & Flute

Jazz Improvisation

Jazz Composition & Theory

Arranging and Music Production

In-Person or Virtual Lessons Available

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