



Mike Downes

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Short bio

"As gifted a composer as he is a bassist." - *Chris Kosky, International Society of Bassists*

"Mike's time playing is delightfully inventive...his lines are clear, hip, and agile. His technique and intonation are extraordinary." - *Kim Richmond, Jazz Player Magazine*

"Emotionally direct, profoundly lyrical bass work." - *Stuart Broomer, The Whole Note*

Juno award winner Mike Downes has earned a reputation as one of Canada's finest jazz artists. He has been active as a bassist, composer, arranger and educator in the Canadian music scene since the early 1980s.

His musicality, emotional depth and melodic approach to the bass have thrilled audiences in Europe, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Iceland, the United States and Canada. In addition to leading his own groups, Mike has performed with virtually all of Canada's top jazz musicians, including Oliver Jones, Diana Krall, PJ Perry, Renee Rosnes, Don Thompson, Kirk MacDonald, Terry Clarke, Guido Basso and Pat LaBarbera. He has been in demand to perform with visiting jazz artists such as Chris Potter, Michael Brecker, John Abercrombie, Peter Erskine, Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Paquito D'Rivera, Dave Liebman, Billy Hart, Phil Woods, Jack DeJohnette and many others.

His large discography includes Juno-nominated and Juno-winning CDs. He has released five recordings as a leader - *Forces, Then, The Winds of Change, Ripple Effect and In the Current. Ripple Effect* recently won a 2014 JUNO for Traditional Jazz Album of the Year.

Mike is the Bass Department Head at Humber College in Toronto. He has also been featured as a Yamaha artist/clinician throughout Canada, at the Paekche Institute in Seoul, South Korea and the infamous Conservatoire de Paris. Mike is the author of *The Jazz Bass Line Book* (Advance Music) and co-author of *Jazz and Contemporary Music Theory*.

For more information please visit www.mikedownes.com.