

## **Nick Bisesi Bio**

**Saxophonist/Composer Nick Bisesi** is not your typical musician. In high school, at an age when most aspiring youngsters are just learning the blues scale, Bisesi was opening his ears and sharpening his technique with Joe Daley, a key player in the 60's avant garde movement. He attended De Paul University on scholarship, supplementing his music education in Chicago nightclubs - where he played everything from jazz to pop, R&B, classical, reggae, Latin, and ballroom music.

This experience polished him into an exceptionally flexible musician - Bisesi is as comfortable pumping out a syncopated ska beat as he is whipping through a complex post-bop turnaround. After cutting his teeth in Chicago, Bisesi hit the road, playing with the likes of **Ray Charles, The Temptations, Nancy Wilson, Liquid Soul, Lou Rawls and Johnny Mathis.**

He then went to New York, where the **National Endowment for the Arts** awarded him a grant to **apprentice with world renowned saxophonist David Liebman.** Impressed with his sound, Liebman produced Bisesi's first CD, Free Time. After 8 years of honing his skills in NYC, and becoming a regular presence at The Knitting Factory, Detour and other Downtown venues, Bisesi returned to Chicago and **collaborated with Ramsey Lewis to record the Billboard Top 5 album "Urban Knights VI".** He received a **Grammy nomination** as featured soloist on Angel Melendez 911 Mambo Orchestra's CD.

Nick then went on to release 3 more CD's as a leader of his own quartet. His latest CD Gemini has gathered rave reviews from the press and is currently playing on over 170 radio stations in the US and Canada.

## **Quotes**

"That man can play, and then he has his OWN style..It's just happening!."  
-*Ramsey Lewis - NEA Jazz Master, Artistic Director Ravinia Festival, Radio Host 'Legends of Jazz'*

*The maturity of his playing and writing is remarkable!*  
-*David Liebman*

Great music, great band - some really interesting stuff going on!  
-*George Wein- Founder Newport Jazz Fest and #1 jazz impresario*

"An excellent and non-cliché ridden improviser."  
-*Robert Spencer, Cadence Magazine*

"Bisesi can't help but infuse the music with throaty emotion."  
-*Neil Tesser, Chicago Readers Critics Choice*

"A talented and highly individual tenor-saxophonist."  
-*Scott Yanow*

## **Performance Credits**

Nick has performed with such notables as **Ray Charles, Nancy Wilson, David Liebman, Ramsey Lewis, Jon Faddis, Matt Wilson, Louis Bellson, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Benny Goodman Orchestra, Lou Rawls, Dave Mason, Johnny Mathis, Bobby Vinton, Frankie Avalon, Liquid Soul, The Temptations, The Spinners, The Coasters, The Drifters, The Four Tops, Debbie Reynolds, Bobby Vinton, Bob Hope, and Chubby Checker.**

Nick has performed at numerous venues throughout the country and in Europe including:

**New York City** - Knitting Factory, Kavehaz, Smalls, Detour, Cornelia St. Café, Neo Lounge, Tonic, The Bitter End, Lions Den, Webster Hall, Izzy Bar, Yardbird Suite, and Rose's Turn.

**Chicago** - Jazz Showcase, Chicago Center for Performing Arts, Hothouse, Smoke Daddy, Hotti Biscotti, Underground Wonderbar, the Box Factory, the Roundhouse, Taste of Chicago, Petrillo Bandshell, Double Door, The Bop Shop, and Andy's.

**The Netherlands** - De RegentenKammer, De Prael, Sam Sam, Bethany's, CC Muziekcafé, and Hotel De Waag.

**Germany** - Jazz am Schloss, Hypothalamus, (Rhiene), Dausen & Hartmann Musikhaus (Meppen), and Fock's Jam Factory.