



About John Nugent

John Nugent—musician, producer, and president/CEO of NY JAM, INC. grew up in Newfoundland. As a young boy he watched his grandfather



import and sell musical instruments at his family's hundred-year old business.

“He always said, ‘treat people the way you would want them to treat you’. And I carry that wisdom with me always,” says Mr. Nugent.

In 1990, John Nugent astounded the Canadian jazz scene with the independent release of his recording debut "Did I Tell You." That album resulted in critics comparing him favorably to tenor giant Sonny Rollins. Unlike Rollins or any other aspiring jazz saxophonist before him, Nugent plays all four members of the saxophone family (soprano, alto, tenor and baritone).

Mr. Nugent may have great taste in music, but the 41-year old promoter is blessed with business sense as well.

Additionally, Nugent can switch straight ahead from mainstream jazz work as

showcased on the "Did I Tell You" album, to the stylish hot R&B contemporary jazz flavors of his self-titled Jazz Inspiration debut. This album features the track "Penny for My Thoughts", one of the biggest Canadian instrumental radio ads in 1993.

Nugent graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in 1982 with a diploma in Jazz Studies. From there he attended the Banff Scholl of Fine Arts in the summer of 1983, and then embarked on a four year stint at North Texas State University. As a member of the One O'clock Jazz Band, he recorded five albums and toured Australia, Europe and the US. From there he became a



member of the famous Woody Herman Orchestra and toured internationally with them for two years.

John Nugent has performed with a plethora of well-known musicians and entertainers including Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Rosemary Clooney, Buddy DeFranco, Clark Terry, Mel Lewis, Jim Hall, Bob Hope, the Temptations, the Four Tops and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

After producing more than forty international concert tours, Mr. Nugent's NY JAM, INC. became a co-owner of

The Stockholm Jazz Festival in 2000 (that fest is now 23 years old). Two years later, Mr. Nugent founded the Rochester International Jazz Festival in Rochester, New York. Now in its fourth year (this coming June 10th through the 18th), the fest has grown from six to nine days, added three free stages, and will feature headliners Sonny Rollins, Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, Chaka Khan and Chris Botti.

“This is one of the most multi-dimensional festivals offered in the world,” says Mr. Nugent, who makes his home in Toronto, Canada. Indeed, his mix of creative, improvised music from fifteen countries is evident in the more than one hundred shows. Artists range from new Italian singer/songwriter Chiara Civello, to the straight-ahead jazz of trumpeter Wallace Roney, to that

wacky-but-wonderful Dutch big band, the Willem Breuker Kollektief.

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Taking care of business leaves less time for music, but Mr. Nugent still finds time to play his sax. He’ll perform at Ronnie Scott’s in London between the Stockholm and Rochester fests, and do a European tour in August.

“These days, I enjoy just as much satisfaction watching my events become a reality as I do playing the horn on a creative level with the artists and bands I’m fortunate enough to perform with.”

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