

# Steve Wiest

Arabesque Recording artist Steve Wiest is in great demand as a featured soloist, composer/arranger and clinician. He has performed extensively in the U.S., South America, Australia, Japan, and Europe. Steve's new solo CD: "The Steve Wiest Big Band: Excalibur" was released in August of 2006 by Arabesque Jazz.

From 1981-1986, Steve was the featured trombonist and one of the arrangers for Maynard Ferguson's Band. While with Maynard, he recorded two CDs: "Storm" and "Live From San Francisco", and one two-volume video: "The Playboy Jazz Festival". During this time, Steve and the M.F. band also performed with a number of guest artists including: Freddie Hubbard, Slide Hampton, Wynton Marsalis, David Clayton Thomas, Lew Soloff, Billy Eckstein, and Mel Torme. Maynard has recorded three of Steve's arrangements: "South 21st Shuffle", "Portuguese Love", and most recently "I Love You" on Ferguson's recent release *Brass Attitude*, and "I'm Old Fashioned" on *MF Horn VI*. Steve reunited with Maynard for a final performance at the Blue Note in New York for 12 sold out shows in July, 2006. The all-star MF alum group then went into the studio to record what would be Maynard's final CD, to be released in early 2007. Included on this release will be Wiest's arrangements of "Besame Mucho" and "Ain't No Sunshine When She's Gone"

Following his years with Ferguson, Steve completed a Masters Degree in Jazz Studies at the University of North Texas. While at UNT, he was the lead trombonist and one of the featured arrangers for the UNT 1:00 Lab Band. His composing, arranging, and trombone playing can be heard on the following UNT CDs: "Lab '86", "Lab '87", "Lab '88", "With Respect To Stan", "Live From Australia", "The Best of The 1:00", and "Fifty Years of Jazz at North Texas". Steve also contributed a chart to "Lab 89". In 1997 in celebration of the 50th year of the UNT Jazz Studies Program, Steve was a featured soloist with an all-star band of UNT alumni that included: Tom Malone, Ed Soph, Marvin Stamm, Lou Marini, and Jack Peterson. For more information about these recordings, please visit the **UNT Jazz page**.

After a two-year stint as Assistant Director of Jazz Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington, [1988-1990], Steve became Director of Jazz Studies and Trombone at The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. His duties at UW-W include directing the award-winning Jazz Symposium [an Art Blakey-style small group] the Jazz Ensemble [big band] and the trombone studio. Steve also teaches jazz pedagogy courses, jazz improvisation and jazz composition & arranging.

During his tenure at UW-Whitewater, Steve has also been a regular member of the Doc Severinsen Big Band and recorded "Swingin' The Blues" with Doc on Azika Records in 2000. He continues a regular schedule as an in-demand guest soloist, and clinician at universities, high schools, jazz festivals, and music conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

Steve has a number of arrangements and texts published with various companies including **Kendor**, **Doug Beach**, Hal Leonard, and **The University of Northern Colorado Jazz Press**. He is also very busy as a composer with recent commissions coming from the Illinois chapter of The International Association of Jazz Educators, The University of Northern Colorado, and Maynard Ferguson. All the new music from his new CD will be available via this website.