

DENNIS LUXION

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Born in Springfield, Illinois in 1952, Dennis Luxion is a jazz pianist, composer and educator. He is currently on the piano faculty of Columbia College Chicago and an active member of the Chicago jazz scene. He performs with his own trio and quintet and at the Green Mill with the Green Mill Quartet. In addition, he works with numerous other band leaders. He currently serves as the music director for the Power of Oneness Spiritual Center.

Luxion traces his musical outlook to his experiences at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in the early 1970's. While studying classical piano with Soulima Stravinsky student Roger Shields, Luxion was an active member of the local jazz community and was strongly influenced by its openness and eclecticism. Although he continued to principally study and play jazz, it was at that time that he developed a broader interest in music. This led to his subsequent studies of classical composition with Frederic Rzewski, Philippe Boesmans and George Flynn; of East Indian music with Swami Nada Brahmananda; of Latin drumming with Geraldo de Oliveira; and of West African drumming as a member of the Chicago Gahu Club under the tutelage of Midawo Gideon Foli Alorwoyie.

After briefly living in Chicago, Luxion moved to Europe and was quickly integrated into the international jazz scene. Soon after arriving in Belgium in 1979, he was introduced to Chet Baker by local saxophone legend Jacques Pelzer. This led to a lengthy musical association: between 1979 and 1983, Luxion made a number of recordings, television and radio appearances, and tours throughout Europe with Baker. This collaboration introduced him to musicians and audiences throughout Europe. Since coming back to Chicago in 1985, Luxion has been active as a performer, composer/arranger and educator. He has worked with Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, the Brazilian music group Batida, Conte Candoli, Pete Christlieb, Carla Cook, Diane Delin, Jon Eardley, Von Freeman, Bill Frisell, George Garzone, Dusko Goykovich, Sheila Jordan, Morgana King, Lee Konitz, Steve Lacey, Garrett List, Wilbur Little, Bob Mover, Sal Nistico, Houston Person, Claudio Roditi, Tony Scott, Woody Shaw, Archie Shepp, Gunther Schuller, Judy Silvano, Ira Sullivan, Toots Thielemans, Leon Thomas, Barney Wilen, and James Woode, among others. He served as exclusive arranger and musical director of the Jazz Fauré Project for its debuts in New York and Chicago and as musical arranger for Spider Saloff's tribute to Chet Baker, *Deep In A Dream*, featuring Oscar Brown, Jr., and author James Gavin.

Currently Luxion teaches private piano lessons and keyboard classes at Columbia College Chicago, where he has been instrumental in developing the jazz piano and keyboard curricula. He has written or co-written several textbooks, most notably a book on beginning jazz piano harmony, *Seventh Heaven*. Previously he taught piano and improvisation privately and at the Alan Swain Music Studios in Evanston and piano, composition, rhythm, improvisation, and ensemble classes at the Halewyn Jazz Studio in Antwerp, Belgium, and at the Séminaire de Jazz of the Royal Conservatory of Liège, Belgium. He is also a regular accompanist and theory instructor at the Janice Borla Jazz Vocal Camp in Naperville, IL, where he has worked with faculty instructors Janice Borla, Janet Lawson, Judy Niemack, Karrin Allyson, Kitty Margolis, Cathy Segal Garcia, and Jay Clayton. Luxion can be heard on the play-along CDs for Greg Fishman's educational publications: *Jazz Saxophone Etudes*, *Jazz Saxophone Duets* and *Jazz Phrasing*.

Luxion's compositions and arrangements have been featured on the recordings *Leaving* (Chet Baker - Intercord), *Floating* (Monica Linges - Nabel), *The Dancer* (Rachel Gould - Trion), *Steve Houben and Strings* (Steve Houben - Igloo Records), *Waimea* (Marlene Rosenberg - Lake Shore Jazz), *Ennead* (Jeff Stitely Quartet - Premonition Records), *Au Bord de l'Eau* (Jazz Fauré Project - Maison Clobert) and *Duality* (Dennis Luxion/Diane Delin - Blujazz). He also wrote music for and appeared in *La Danseuse du Gai-moulin*, an episode of the French TV show "Les enquêtes du commissaire Maigret". Luxion is currently composing and arranging for Diane Delin's Octagon (string quartet plus jazz quartet), as well as for his own ensembles.