

## Jeff Lopez Biography

*"Lopez writes melodic songs that stay with you long after the recording has finished. That doesn't happen every day. It's one of those criticisms that pops up every time we compare Pop Music to Jazz. Surprisingly, for a debut album, Lopez' debut belongs on this year's top ten list."*

**Cadence Magazine - June 2002**

Born and raised in New York City, Jeff Lopez has been playing bass for 37 years and is an accomplished composer and arranger

Gravitating towards jazz at an early age, the bassist covertly borrowed his brother's bass in his teens after being denied a drum set. He soon bonded with the instrument and began life long love of music, bass playing and the endless exploration of freely channeling his emotions through musical expression.

His dedication and excel at his instrument led to being accepted at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he earned a Bachelors of Music degree. He continued his education, on a Eubie Blake Scholarship, at Manhattan School of Music's graduate studies program and received his Masters of Music in 1993. Privately, Jeff has studied with Jaco Pastorius, Anthony Jackson, Cecil McBee and John Patitucci and composition with Kenny Werner, Dave Lalama and Rich Shemaria.

Some of Jeff's major influences have been bassists Charles Mingus, Charlie Haden and Jaco Pastorius. Like these three jazz bass giants, Jeff is also an accomplished bandleader, composer, and arranger. This is evident on his first two CD releases, Sun And The Rain 1998 and comprised entirely of his original compositions and freelances with other musicians and groups throughout the mid-Atlantic area.

He has composed numerous big band compositions which are available to professional and amateur bands alike. Jeff's compositions have appeared in various film and network TV productions. Jeff has also been a contributing author to Jazz Player Magazine.

Jeff's professional career has included performing and touring with various ensembles that have taken him around the globe, including 20 year-tenure as a member of the very elite U.S. Army Field Band, The Jazz Ambassadors. As a member of the Jazz Ambassadors he has toured in 35 countries and all of 50 states in the U.S. A performance highlight was his two appearances at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall.

Jeff has performed with Toots Thielemans, Kenny Werner, Jon Hendricks, Ernie Watts, Rich Perry, Gary Bartz as well as many other Jazz luminaries. Jeff has recorded with John Scofield, Peter Bernstein, Andy Bey, Geri Allen, Phil Woods to name a few. Jeff was also performed with the Greenwich Village Orchestra, Garden State Philharmonic and Maryland Symphony.

Jeff Lopez' debut solo recording, the Sun and the Rain, featured Joel Frahm, Craig Handy, Tom Guarna, Rodney Holmes and Uri Caine.

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