

# Benjie Messer

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www.benjiemesser.com

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## Performing Experience

### Trombonist

- Freelancer in all styles and genres, including jazz, classical, popular, chamber, avant-garde, etc.
- Excellent sight-reader, improviser, and interpreter
- Doubles: euphonium, sousaphone, sackbut, conch shells
- Principal teachers: John Faieta (Boston Conservatory), David Sporny (UMass-Amherst), Richard Frazier (University of Oregon), Cameron Gates (U.S. Marine Band)
- Regular soloist with Bad Cactus Brass Band (second line), Rakatá (latin), SCC Big Band (jazz), The Sugar Thieves (blues), and others

### Pianist

- Self-taught jazz performer, with experience in big band, combo, and solo piano and voice settings

## Record Appearances

**Inner Orchestra: Live 2000** (2000, independent)

**The Branches: Very Far Away** (2001, independent)

**Kid Sampson: Last Chance Soda** (2001, Fancy Records)

**Inner Orchestra: All At Once** (2002, independent)

**Kayo Dot: Choirs of the Eye** (2003, Tzadik Records)

**Humanwine: Fighting Naked** (2007, Nervous Relatives Music)

## Bandleading Experience

**Bad Cactus Brass Band** (2009-present : New Orleans-style second line and dixieland)

- currently booking events in Phoenix- information at [www.badcactusbrassband.com](http://www.badcactusbrassband.com)

**Inner Orchestra** (1999-2006 : original jazz and funk)

- performed throughout New England for seven years
- released two albums
- presented a free educational public concert series funded by arts grants
- Opened for George Clinton and P-Funk, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Yusef Lateef, Soulive, Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, Melvin Sparks

**Barons of Swing** (1999-2000 : original Neo-Swing)

- performed at swing dances throughout Western Massachusetts

## Education

**University of Massachusetts (2000-02)** Amherst, Mass. Master's in Music Education

**Hampshire College (1995-99)** Amherst, Mass. Bachelor of Arts

## Professional Memberships

**American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 586**