

MIKE COTTONE MUSIC

Full Bio:

Rochester born musician Mike Cottone developed a love for music at a very young age. At the age of 10, he was given a chance to begin playing the trumpet where he made rapid progress on the instrument. Upon reaching high school, he began to explore the world of jazz thanks to his band director, Mr. Daniel McMurray. Through McMurray's advice and inspiration, Mike was exposed to many trumpet greats such as Lee Morgan, Clifford Brown, Miles Davis, and Roy Hargrove. By his junior year in high school, Mike was beginning to develop his own soulful sound and passion for the music.

Deciding to begin a career in music, Mike auditioned at The Eastman School of Music in his hometown where he was awarded the prestigious Howard Hanson Scholarship, and the Rochester International Jazz Festival Scholarship. Mike began his studies as a double degree student in Jazz Performance and Music Education. It was there that Mike honed his talents under the direction of trumpet teachers Clay Jenkins of the Clayton Hamilton Orchestra, and Rochester Philharmonic Trumpeter, Douglas Prosser. While playing in the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, and the Downbeat award winning Eastman Jazz Ensemble, Mike shared the stage with jazz giants such as Clark Terry, Slide Hampton, John Hollenbeck, Peter Erskine, Rufus Reid, and Marian McPartland. During his time at and in between semesters at The Eastman School, Mike kept busy performing for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI, as well as various venues in and around Rochester.

Upon completion of his education degree at The Eastman School of Music, Mike spent a year teaching in the Greece, Spencerport, and Rush-Henrietta School Districts along with conducting private lessons. In 2008, Mike was a featured clinician and performer for the Rochester International Jazz Festival.

Mike is currently working to complete his Masters degree at The Juilliard School where he studies privately with trumpet guru Chris Jaudes. During the 2008-2009 school year, Mike has studied and performed with jazz masters such as Benny Golson, Terence Blanchard, Ron Blake, Ted Nash, Carl Allen, Ben Wolfe, Ray Drummond, and Joe Wilder.

Mike can be found performing at various venues around the city such as Smalls Jazz Club, The Al Hirschfeld Theater for the Broadway Production HAIR, Blackduck, and at The Juilliard School.