



“In summary, Rob Reddy’s music is truly American: confident without being arrogant, brash but not swaggering, and celebratory to the point of boisterousness and joyous unrestraint.”

—Allen Huotari, AllAboutJazz.com

# ROB REDDY

“...Reddy sounds, and dares to sound, like no one but himself.”

—Brian Morton, Jazz Review

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REDDY  
MUSIC

# BIOGRAPHY

Critics have called saxophonist/composer Rob Reddy “a versatile and adventurous saxophonist” (Scott Yanow, *All Music Guide*) and “an impressive and open-minded tunesmith” (Troy Collins, *AllAboutJazz.com*), noting that he “sounds, and dares to sound, like no one but himself” (Brian Morton, *Jazz Review*). “Since the early 1990s,” wrote Harry Newman in a recent feature article in *Downtown Express*, “Rob Reddy has been forging a way uniquely his own as a jazz composer, saxophone player and bandleader in New York.”

Since forming his first band in 1989, a trio featuring legendary bassist Reggie Workman and drummer Pheeroan akLaff, Reddy has worked almost exclusively as a leader, with the exception of brief stints with Workman’s ensemble and Ronald Shannon Jackson’s Decoding Society in the early 90’s. For the rest of that decade, Reddy would helm a prototypical sextet called Rob Reddy’s Honor System, documented on his first two recordings, 1996’s *Post-War Euphoria* (Songlines Recordings) and 1999’s *Songs That You Can Trust* (Koch Jazz).

Two other CDs, 2000’s *However Humble* (Koch Jazz) and 2001’s *Seeing By The Light Of My Own Candle* (Knitting Factory Records), would follow early in the new millennium, demonstrating Reddy’s expanding palette, as well as a growing roster of notable collaborators, including bassist Dom Richards, drummer Guillermo E. Brown, violinist Charles Burnham, cellist Rufus Cappadocia, and trumpeter John Carlson among others.

“I never use composition as a vehicle for improvisation,” Reddy explains, “but rather I utilize improvisation as a tool to support the melodic material. My music is rooted in American folk forms (blues, gospel, country, Appalachian, marches and a wide range of jazz), and my recordings and working bands draw on a pool of musicians whose sounds and strengths become an essential part of presenting that music.”

In October 2006, he founded the Reddy Music label, and released his first recording in five years, *A Hundred Jumping Devils*, featuring a new sextet called Rob Reddy’s Gift Horse, featuring Burnham, Richards, French hornist Mark Taylor, guitarist Brandon Ross and percussionist Mino Cinelu. The CD received critical praise ([www.reddymusic.com/reviews.htm](http://www.reddymusic.com/reviews.htm)) and earned Reddy a commission from Chamber Music America to write new music for the band, which he will premiere in late 2007.

His second Reddy Music release, September 2007’s *The Book of the Storm*, features an all-star 19-piece group he calls Rob Reddy’s Small Town performing the hour-long title piece live at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center (TPAC) in March 2007. This impressive large-scale work ([http://www.downtownexpress.com/de\\_200/thepersonalstorm.html](http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_200/thepersonalstorm.html)) was commissioned by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Jerome Foundation.

In the spring of 2007, Reddy expanded his label’s presence by creating the Reddy Music Concert Series (<http://www.reddymusic.com/series.htm>), a monthly series presenting double-bill concerts at Brooklyn’s Jalopy Theater (<http://www.jalopy.biz/performance.php>). Other upcoming projects include recording a new CD with his working quintet, unveiling a new ten-piece ensemble called Rob Reddy’s Tenfold in October 2007, and a collaboration with choreographers Andrew Palermo and Taye Diggs to be premiered at TPAC in October 2008.

Photograph by Catherine LaSota

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# ACTIVE PROJECTS

## Rob Reddy's Gift Horse

Rob Reddy, saxophones; Mark Taylor, French horn; Charles Burnham, violin; Brandon Ross, guitar; Dom Richards, bass; Mino Cinelu, percussion

This unusual sextet explores an eclectic mix of original music inspired by hymns, processions, threnodies, ballads and sambas, as documented on their well-received October 2006 debut, *A Hundred Jumping Devils* (Reddy Music). "Rob Reddy's Gift Horse sextet sounds like no other ensemble," explains *JazzTimes* reviewer Forrest Dylan Bryant, who adds, "the group creates a forward thinking, yet rustic sound that is of everyplace and no place." Chamber Music America recently commissioned new music for the band, which it will premiere in late 2007.

## Rob Reddy Quintet

Rob Reddy, saxophones; Charles Burnham, violin and mandolin; Jef Lee Johnson, guitars; Dom Richards, double bass; Pheeroan akLaff, drums

Reddy's smallest current ensemble made its debut in April 2007 at the first-ever event in Brooklyn's Reddy Music Concert Series. The band, which embraces an open concept that leaves plenty of room for improvisation, will head into the studio in the fall of 2007 to record a new CD tentatively scheduled for release in early 2008.

## Rob Reddy's Tenfold

Rob Reddy, saxophones; Oscar Noriega, clarinets; John Carlson, trumpet; Mark Taylor, French horn; Charles Burnham, violin and mandolin; Rubin Kodheli, cello; Brandon Ross, guitars; Bryan Carrott, vibraphone and marimba; Dom Richards, double bass; Pheeroan akLaff, drums

This ten-piece ensemble exists somewhere between the quintets and sextets Reddy is known for and his recent work with his large ensemble, Rob Reddy's Small Town. New music for this group, which expands Reddy's familiar palette to include trumpet, clarinet, cello, and vibraphone, was commissioned by the American Composers Forum and will be premiered at Brooklyn's Jalopy Theater every Friday night in October 2007.

## Rob Reddy's Small Town

Rob Reddy, composer and conductor

This 19-piece chamber ensemble was created to perform an hour-long original piece called "The Book of the Storm," which was commissioned by The New York State Council on the Arts and The Jerome Foundation. A live recording of the piece, recorded at its March 2007 premiere at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center (TPAC), will be released in September 2007. The group, which features some of the most respected musicians in New York, is built around a cadre of frequent collaborators that includes Pheeroan akLaff (drums), Charles Burnham (violin), John Carlson (trumpet), Dom Richards (bass), Brandon Ross (guitar), and Mark Taylor (French horn). Reddy plans to pen a new extended composition for this group in mid 2008.

For more information about any of these groups, please e-mail [rob@reddymusic.com](mailto:rob@reddymusic.com).

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# QUOTES

“Since the early 1990s, Rob Reddy has been forging a way uniquely his own as a jazz composer, saxophone player and bandleader in New York.”

—**Harry Newman, Downtown Express**

“Reddy understands the link between rhythm and song as well as any younger composer in the wake of Henry Threadgill...”

—**Leone Evangelista, AllAboutJazz.com**

“...Reddy sounds, and dares to sound, like no one but himself.”

—**Brian Morton, JazzReview**

“...Reddy has assembled a fine cast of players, each with an uncommon ability to evoke a broad range of images as they interpret these beautifully complex compositions.”

—**Elliott Simon, AllAboutJazz-New York**

“Released last year, *A Hundred Jumping Devils* projects a number of the qualities that distinguish Mr. Reddy’s best music: stealthy propulsion, sturdy lyricism and a sound that reconciles classical harmony with folk rusticity. Mr. Reddy, who mainly plays soprano and alto, never seems to run out of new ways to bundle the timbres in his arsenal, which include Charlie Burnham’s violin, Brandon Ross’s guitar and Mark Taylor’s French horn.”

—**Nate Chinen, New York Times**

“His new CD, which is called *A Hundred Jumping Devils*, is striking for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it’s the unusual sound palette he draws on with French horn, violin and congas all in the mix, and secondly it’s his approach to composition, taking in inspiration from a variety of disparate sources: hymns, processions and sambas amongst them...a quite unusual mix of instruments, influences and sounds.”

—**Jez Nelson, BBC 3’s Jazz on 3**

“...Rob Reddy has recorded another noteworthy addition to his discography as he continues to explore new themes, new textures and new rhythms...”

—**Bill Donaldson, Cadence**

“...Reddy and band perpetuate a wondrous, multihued palette of disparate elements in concert with ferocious interplay and fragile soundscapes.”

—**Glenn Astarita, DownBeat**

“Reddy draws on concepts and palettes of the AACM, way-post bop and anything-goes downtown movements, alluding to the mainstream in the course of embracing diverse possibilities.”

—**Howard Mandel, Jazziz**

“...Reddy’s is an adventure that benefits fans of any jazz era.”

—**Andrew Bartlett, Amazon.com**

# DISCOGRAPHY



Rob Reddy's Small Town, *The Book of the Storm* (2007)  
Reddy Music RED-002

Rob Reddy, composer and conductor; Oscar Noriega, clarinet and bass clarinet; Steve Elson, flute and soprano saxophone; Cochemea Gastelum, alto saxophone; Tim Otto, soprano and tenor saxophones; Lisa Parrott, soprano and baritone saxophones; John Carlson, trumpet; Bob Scarpulla, trumpet; Mark Taylor, French horn; Lis Rubbard, French horn; Curtis Hasselbring, trombone; Charles Burnham, violin; Sarah Bernstein, violin; Marlene Rice, viola; Mary Wooten, cello; Dom Richards, double bass; Brandon Ross, acoustic and electric guitars; Jon Margulies, electric guitar; Pheeroan akLaff, drums; Guillermo E. Brown, drums



Rob Reddy's Gift Horse, *A Hundred Jumping Devils* (2006)  
Reddy Music RED-001

Rob Reddy, soprano and alto saxophones; Mark Taylor, French horn; Charles Burnham, violin; Brandon Ross, electric and acoustic guitars; Dom Richards, double bass; Mino Cinelu, percussion



Rob Reddy's Sleeping Dogs, *Seeing By The Light of My Own Candle* (2001)  
Knitting Factory Records KFW291

Rob Reddy, soprano and alto saxophones; Charles Burnham, violin and mandolin; John Carlson, trumpet and pocket trumpet; Dom Richards, bass; Guillermo E. Brown, drums



Rob Reddy's Quttah, *However Humble* (2000)  
Koch Jazz KOC-CD-8579

Rob Reddy, soprano and alto saxophones; Charles Burnham, violin and mandolin; Jef Lee Johnson, guitar and electric sitar; Rufus Cappadocia, cello; Dom Richards, bass; Hearn Gadbois, percussion



Rob Reddy's Honor System, *Songs That You Can Trust* (1999)  
Koch Jazz KOC-CD-7876

Rob Reddy, soprano and alto saxophones; Eddie Allen, trumpet; Josh Roseman, trombone; Jef Lee Johnson, acoustic and electric guitars; Dom Richards, bass; Pheeroan akLaff, drums



Rob Reddy's Honor System, *Post-War Euphoria* (1996)  
Songlines Recordings 1512-2

Rob Reddy, soprano and alto saxophones; Eddie Allen, trumpet; Josh Roseman, trombone; Jef Lee Johnson, guitar; Dom Richards, bass; Pheeroan akLaff, drums