

Bob Sinicrope Bio

Bob Sinicrope is a consummate educator. He founded the Milton Academy Jazz Program in 1974 and remains its director. It has grown from one combo/course with six students to eight combos/courses and over sixty students. Winner of several DownBeat, MusicFestUSA, IAJE and Berklee Festival awards, the program has produced many fine professional musicians most notably Aaron Goldberg and Steve Lehman. The combos have no auditions and equally serve students who seek an introductory experience.

Originally a full time Milton Academy math teacher, Bob's passion for jazz attracted students to his jazz offerings and he eventually became a full time jazz teacher. Studies at Berklee College, and private studies with Charlie Banacos, Hal Galper, Rufus Reid, Bob Gullotti and Mick Goodrick greatly helped with this transition. Bob's teaching emphasis is on learning and emulating the classic jazz recordings. His students annually perform tribute concerts to artists such as Horace Silver, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk and Miles Davis and they have performed at four JEN conferences, six IAJE conferences, twice at the White House; the North Sea, Fribourg, Viennes and Montreux Jazz Festivals and at local jazz clubs. They have opened for Eric Alexander, Lynne Arriale, Either/Orchestra, Hal Galper, Jim Hall, Dave Holland, Abdullah Ibrahim, Elvin Jones, Hank Marr, Poncho Sanchez, James Taylor, Kenny Werner and Victor Wooten and Bass Extremes.

Bob has made his mark internationally over the past five decades with clinics in schools on six continents. Other teaching credits include Jamey Aebersold's Summer Jazz Workshops since 1981, Victor Wooten Berklee Bass Weekend Workshops since 2014, Jazzwise Summer School (London) (1997 - 2008), John Payne Music Center (1979-2001) years, and Jamaican Peace Corps. Bob also runs weekend workshops for guitarists, bassists and drummers that precede the Jamey Aebersold weeklong workshops. His IAJE conference presentations include *Develop Your Own Groove* (1994); *Tips on Teaching Improvisation to Beginners* (1997); *Tips on Using Technology in the Classroom* (2007). He presented *A History of Jazz Bass PowerPoint presentation and Walking Bass Lines for Beginners* at the 2004 South Africa Jazz Educators conference and *Teaching Jazz Improvisation* (2008). He was a featured presenter at the International Society of Bassists 2011 San Francisco and 2013 Rochester conferences with his *History of Jazz Bass presentation*. He has also presented these workshops once a semester at Berklee College of Music and at several colleges throughout the country and in Canada, England, Portugal, Puerto Rico and South Africa. He was the combo adjudicator and a featured performer for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Peaks Jazz Festival in Saratoga Springs, Utah and directed a 2016 weekend and week long workshop at Tshwane University in Pretoria, South Africa. In 2007, Bob became the inaugural recipient of the [John LaPorta - Jazz Educator of the Year](#) sponsored by IAJE and Berklee College of Music. He is an active Trustee of the [Jazz Education Network](#) (JEN) and chairs some of its committees and in 2012 was elected JEN's President-Elect and served as President in 2014-2016. Bob is the first high school classroom teacher to head a jazz education organization. During his Presidency, JEN hosted two conferences each of which attracted 3500 attendees. The 2015 San Diego conference featured Herbie Hancock as keynote speaker and the 2016 Louisville conference featured Victor Wooten as keynote speaker. In 2010 Bob received the National Youth Development Council award for his service and he also received DownBeat magazine's Jazz Education Achievement Award. Bob has authored several articles published in JAZZeD, DownBeat, BassPlayer and SBO magazines and wrote a chapter in [Mbizo-Johnny Dyani](#) South Africa bassist Johnny Dyani's biography and [The Jazzer's Cookbook](#). He is also listed in the [Jazz History Database](#).

His special connections with South Africa have evolved since 1991 when Abdullah Ibrahim visited Milton Academy and invited the school's combo to tour South Africa. Bob is a regular visitor there and has forged special bonds with Johnny Meko's *Music Academy of Gauteng*, Darius Brubeck and the *University of Kwa-Zulu Natal*, the *Sinikthemba Choir* and the *Amy Biehl Foundation*. Bob's *World Leaders* band were featured presenters/performers at the 2004 and 2008 South Africa jazz educators conference. Bob consulted with the music program of the Amy Biehl Foundation in 2002 and he performed at the 2008 Cape Town Jazz Festival with the BeBop Guitars. In March 2017, Milton Academy

students toured South Africa for the eleventh time and his groups have delivered over \$200,000 worth of donated materials to needy township music schools.

A much in demand bassist, Bob currently leads two groups *The World Leaders* and *SoundsGlobal*. His credits include performances with Eric Alexander, Ernestive Anderson, Shirley Bassey, Jerry Bergonzi, Randy Brecker, Doc Cheatham, John Clayton, Billy Eckstine, Bill Evans (saxophone), Jon Faddis, George Garzone, Aaron Goldberg, Tiny Grimes, Bobby Hackett, Abdullah Ibrahim, Papa Jo Jones, Sean Jones, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Andy Narell, Babatunde Olatunji, the Boston Pops, Chris Potter, Rufus Reid, Bobby Sanabria, Terell Stafford, Kenny Werner, Matt Wilson, Victor Wooten and the Artie Shaw Band.