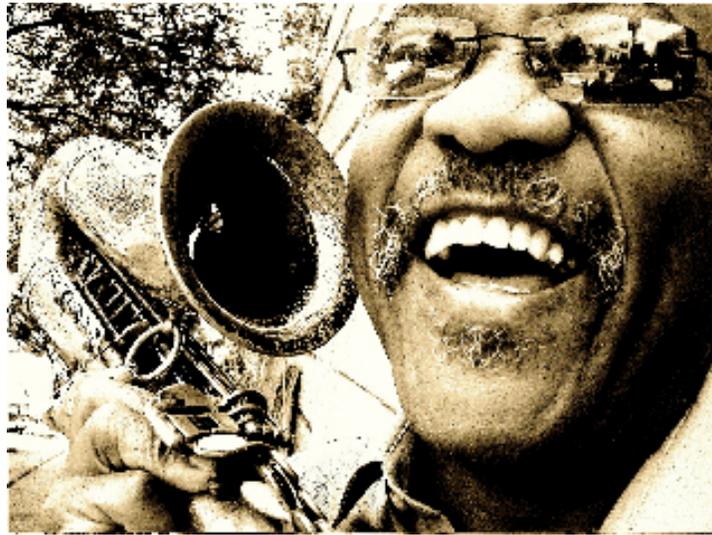


# Oliver Lake



## Biography

Whether composing commissioned works for Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic; creating chamber pieces for Arditti and Flux String Quartets, Amherst Sax Quartet and San Francisco Contemporary Players ; arranging for Bjork, Lou Reed and A Tribe Called Quest; collaborating with poets Amiri Baraka and Ntozake Shange; choreographers Ron Brown and Marlies Yearby; vocalist Mary Redhouse, kumongo player Jin Hi Kim, and bamboo flute player Shuni Tsou; performing with Anna Devere Smith and Patricia Williams; sharing the stage with Mos Def and Me'shell Ndegeocello; or leading his own Organ Quartet, Big Band and cooperative ensembles the World Saxophone Quartet and Trio 3; Oliver views it all as parts of the same whole.

Lake attributes much of his diverse array of musical styles and disciplines to his experience with the Black Artists Group (BAG), the legendary multi-disciplined and innovative St. Louis collective he co-founded with poets Ajule Rutlin, and musicians Julius Hemphill and Floyd La Flore over 35 years ago. As a co-founder of the internationally acclaimed World Saxophone Quartet with Hemphill, Hamiet Bluiett and David Murray, Oliver continues to work with a variety of groups, and collaborates with several notable choreographers, poets and a veritable Who's Who of the progressive jazz scene, performing all over the U.S., Europe, Japan, the Middle East, Africa and Australia.

# Oliver Lake

Always a strong proponent of artist self-empowerment and independence, Lake founded Passin' Thru, Inc. in 1988, a non-profit foundation dedicated to fostering, promoting and advancing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of jazz, new music and other disciplines in relation to music. Under his artistic direction, Passin' Thru has commissioned new works and sponsored performances by emerging artists. The organization also operates Passin' Thru Records, which has recently issued its 18th recording.

A recipient of the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, Oliver Lake is also one of the most frequently commissioned composers in the history of the eminently respected organization Meet the Composer. Other commissions have been received from the Library of Congress, the Rockefeller Foundation ASCAP, the International Association for Jazz Education, Composers Forum, the McKim Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Trust and the Lila Wallace Arts Partners Program. Additionally, artist groups who have commissioned works from Lake are the Wheeling Symphony, New York New Music Ensemble, and Pulse Percussion Ensemble of New York. Oliver is often specially cited for his numerous endeavors with female artists and performers, to the extent of being called "The Feminist Composer" in an arts course taught at Wesleyan University. Oliver received the Jazz Impact award from the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium in April of 2006 and the 2006 Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award at the Kennedy Center.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Oliver is also an accomplished poet, painter and performance artist. He has published two books of poetry, has exhibited and sold his artwork internationally, and has toured the country with his one-man performance piece, *Matador of 1st and 1st*. In 2011, Oliver began work on the *Jazz House* for the City of Asylum in Pittsburgh, with its completion realized in 2012. Oliver designed the intricately painted exterior and provided works of art for the interior, including a programed saxophone doorbell, which includes samples of his music.

Oliver is currently immersed in work with his Organ Quartet, Big Band, Tarbaby, Trio 3, the World Saxophone Quartet and a multitude of other performers and ensembles.

In 2014, Oliver received the prestigious Doris Duke Artist Award, a multi-year grant awarded to only 19 American artists in the fields of jazz, theater and dance. As such, the coming years promise to be exciting and filled with bold new artistic endeavors.

*For more information, visit [oliverlake.net](http://oliverlake.net) & [facebook.com/oliverlakejazz](https://www.facebook.com/oliverlakejazz)*