

# MORGAN FAW & THE FLAME



## Personnel:

**Morgan Faw - Bandleader/Alto Sax**

**Brandon Woody- Trumpet**

**Christian Napoleon - Drums**

**Isaac Coyle - Bass**

**Miles Lennox - Piano**

**JT Ho-Mueller - Synthesizer**

## CONTACT INFO

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“Onward and Upward” might be the exact words the late-great Ralph Peterson would use to describe this young ensemble.

With now two records out, this band is full of energy and hungry to perform. Morgan Faw and his elite ensemble, “The Flame” strive for excellence in the music that they play.

With the power and energy of Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers with the compositional breadth from influences from styles such as: Motown, Blue Note, to Hip hop. Emphasizing writing original music and arrangements. Morgan and his cohort take you on a journey. Their focus is from a variety of sounds from the black American music idiom. With care, they bring their music into a new, yet welcoming sound. This band bears the sounds and hallmarks of the great quintets in the past and in modern music.

Three years into being a resident of New York City, Morgan Faw is taking his bandleading career into the next step and is eager to share what this ensemble has created!

The Flame consists of all contemporaries where each member has honed in their craft, ready to share with the world whom Morgan has shared many different performance settings with.

In the pursuance of their goal, this ensemble of musicians wishes to preserve, protect and honor their mentor's whom have shown the way for them to pave their own path...and to **BLAZE THAT SAME TRAIL!**



### **Saxophonist, Bandleader, Composer, and**

**Arranger:** **Morgan Faw** has grown up living around the United States, but was raised as a musician in Kansas City, MO.

Morgan was recently named 2022 Artist In Residence for the annual "Spotlight: Charlie Parker Celebration" Festival in Kansas City and has performed all across the KC area. He has been a leader, performing locally, and nationally in cities such as New Orleans, Harlem NYC, the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, Wally's Jazz Cafe (Boston, MA), The Blue Room (KC), The Met (Philly), as well as the D.C Jazz Festival in

2019 with Ralph Peterson. Morgan has also performed with nationally recognized country artist, Darius Rucker.

Morgan graduated The Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA on full scholarship. In his first year, he had the honor and privilege to perform, write for, and record an album with the late great drummer Ralph Peterson Jr. and his Generation Next Bigband, (GenNext), for 3.5 years, a band made up entirely of the best musicians at Berklee. Their album "LISTEN UP!" including Faw's arrangement of the Hoagy Carmichael classic, "Skylark" is available on all streaming services. The band performed at venues such as Dizzy's Club in NYC, Scullers Jazz Club, and The DC Jazz Festival. He also studied with artists such as: Godwin Louis, Tia Fuller, George Garzone, Kenny Werner and Neal Smith.

Now living as a fulltime musician in New York City and with a new voice to share on the alto saxophone, Morgan spends his time as a band leader and a supporting artist, playing with great leaders such as: Mimi Jones, Chris Beck, and Johnny O'Neal to name a few. He had held residencies at venues such as The Century Room and Mintons Playhouse. He and his quintet, "The Flame" recently performed three hopes that this collective of musicians will push the boundaries of improvised music as well bear the torch of their mentors and those that have left them their legacy to protect and perserve...



## **The Flame**

While it is clear the roots of this band are in tradition and in swing, The Flame stands for more than preservation...

“I have always wanted to lead a group of musicians where we collectively dedicate ourselves to the same book of music - one that we create together. One of the many lessons my mentor, Ralph Peterson taught me was to not wait by the phone for a big break. He encouraged us to make our our path, give us our own big break, so I took that as my que to just get going!” - Faw

Their first record, “It Takes a Village” is a collection of tunes Faw wrote in dedication to his mentors, family, and many life lessons he has learned through his experiences as a person and as an aspiring musician. In addition to the original pieces, Faw also recorded the Pamela Baskin-Watson classic, “The Love We Had Yesterday” (recorded famously by Bobby Watson and Betty Carter).

“There is a long history of art benefiting from Black Culture globally! So, instead of trying to find benefit from Black Culture and Art, I wanted my music to be “something to bring to the table - so to speak. A Thank you to something that has given me so much. Thats what The Flame is, that is what “It Takes a Village” is. It is my first, of hopefully many, contributions to the culture that is Black American Music.” - Faw

## Band Biographies:



**Christian Napoleon**, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, started playing the drums at age 3. He has performed alongside many different artists over his career, some include Ralph Peterson and his GenNext Bigband, Melissa Aldana,

Casey Benjamin, Tomoki Sanders and Morgan Faw.

Napoleon graduated from Berklee College of Music, where he studied Music Business and Management with world-renowned musicians such as Ralph Peterson, Neal Smith, Dave Santoro. He performs regularly with multi-instrumentalist, Tomoki Sanders, and he also just returned from a European Tour (2024) with Japanese trumpeter, Takuya Kuroda. In addition, he leads his own group called, "Thrash."



**Bassist Isaac Coyle** originally hails from the California Bay Area. He began his musical studies on guitar at the age of 6, but switched to primarily playing bass at the age of 14. While in high school Isaac had the opportunity to study under many fantastic musicians such as Howard Wiley, Ben Wolfe, Jeff Chambers and others. He attended Berklee College of Music on a Full Scholarship, studying with World Renowned Artists such as Bassist Linda May-Oh as well as Saxophonist Tia Fuller . In his first year, Isaac also had the opportunity to also play in Ralph

Petersons GenNext Bigband (alongside Morgan Faw and Christian Napoleon). Coyle also now tours the states with world renowned drummer and educator and pioneer, Terri Lynn Carrington.

**Pianist Miles Lennox** is a jazz pianist, composer and



bandleader based in New York City. Originally from South Florida, Miles studied Jazz Piano at the Dillard Center for the Arts under Christopher Dorsey, with private instruction from Stephen Scott. Currently, he attended the Manhattan School of Music, a leading conservatory in New York, under the guidance of Phil Markowitz and Stefon Harris. In 2019, he won the “Best Original Big Band Composition” award for Open Windows at the Essentially Ellington Jazz Festival, and was selected by Carnegie Hall to tour China and Taiwan with the Carnegie NYO Jazz Orchestra, led by Sean Jones.

With Miles on piano, the DCA band achieved 3 straight top-3 finishes at the Ellington national competition, including a win in 2018. Miles’ debut album, “Something To Say”, was released in May 2020 with 11 original compositions. The album is now available on Spotify, Apple Music, Google Play, Amazon Music and all major streaming platforms. Lennox currently is a Fellow at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz at UCLA in Los



Joseph Thierry Ho-Mueller aka JT is a pianist, educator, composer, and producer. Hailing from Charleston, South Carolina, JT is enamored with all types of genres from the sultriness of RNB, to the geometrical sounds of jazz, to the raw nature of indie. His catalog of achievements is diverse, from the opportunity to perform for the TEDx Charleston talks, to studying with musicians such as grammy award winners John Pattituchi, Danilo Perez, Kenny Barron, Joe Lovano, and many more. He has performed with people such as Blaque Dynamite, one of the top jazz drummers in the world, Adam Dietch, the drummer for Lettuce, and Susan Trucks for the Tedeschi Trucks

band. A previous instructor at the Charleston Jazz Academy camp, JT at the ripe age of 22 has garnered several years of teaching experiences that have included master classes, private lessons, and workshops. JT has also been a part of Nightshift entertainment, one of the most prestigious wedding band organizations on the east coast.

## Performance Links

Morgan Faw and The Flame *LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP: VOL. 1* (Second Album)

<https://fawjazzsax.bandcamp.com/album/live-in-fellowship-vol-1>

Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center Show Recording: (PRIVATE USE ONLY)

[https://soundcloud.com/faw541/sets/untitled-playlist-2/s-Qzur6ob0adD?si=1d52d3fb26c840dfb6a50a58dcf0b245&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/faw541/sets/untitled-playlist-2/s-Qzur6ob0adD?si=1d52d3fb26c840dfb6a50a58dcf0b245&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

CD Release Show (3:45 start)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFSX9eTxCHc&t=677s>

Berklee College of Music Performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIOCgyiMlcY&t=2325s>

“It Takes a Village” Album:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CMRU\\_CbU-8&list=OLAK5uy\\_mKVWWpFKQcGAHfXYY3ePV2R4hrWg5\\_snQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CMRU_CbU-8&list=OLAK5uy_mKVWWpFKQcGAHfXYY3ePV2R4hrWg5_snQ)

“From Kansas City to NYC: Journey of a Rising Jazz Saxophonist & Composer | Interview with Morgan Faw”:

[https://youtu.be/9OII\\_3NEEYI?si=8UM1hTQSgHBdbGmB](https://youtu.be/9OII_3NEEYI?si=8UM1hTQSgHBdbGmB)

Live at Minton's Playhouse:

[https://soundcloud.com/faw541/sets/live-at-mintons-playhouse?si=0fdf33aa3fc4491aaf4e2ca62d47623&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/faw541/sets/live-at-mintons-playhouse?si=0fdf33aa3fc4491aaf4e2ca62d47623&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

Morgan Faw and The Flame Live at Dizzy's Club:

<https://soundcloud.com/faw541/sets/untitled-playlist-2>