

Entertainment



Tom Browne is one of the most creative and gifted musicians in the entertainment field. His training began with one year of piano lessons when he was 11 years old, but soon after, he started his trumpet studies. Tom was a student at New York City's High School of Music and Art, where his interest was in classical music. He spent most of his time playing in brass choirs and in the orchestra.

While attending Kingsborough College as a physics major, Tom was introduced to jazz by a friend who played him an Ornette Coleman album. The next year he switched to Queens College and began making an impact in the local clubs. Brown credits some of his training to a club in Queens, The Village Door. Other pros who went through there include Roy Eldridge, Sonny Fortune, Jimmy Nottingham and Walter Perkins.

Tom's first professional gig came with the Weldon Irvin group in 1975. With the group he played the club circuit along the Eastern Seaboard. He then joined Sonny Fortune's group, touring Europe

and the United States with Fortune and playing venues like the Village Vanguard and the Bottom Line. After Tom left Sonny's group there was a four-month period where he sat in at various clubs. One night he happened to sit in at Jimmy Boyd's Breezin' Lounge and found himself playing on Lonnie Smith's *Gotcha* album. The meeting of Jimmy Boyd and Tom Browne proved fruitful as well — Boyd now manages Browne. The next step for Tom was a recording contract.

Browne released his first LP in 1979. *Brown Sugar* included original compositions as well as versions of "What's Goin' On" and "The Closer I Get To You." In addition to the assembled studio professionals, the album spotlighted the playing of keyboard prodigy Bernard Wright and Marcus, then 18 years old, both Music and Art students.

Wright and Miller made return appearances on *Love Approach*, an album dedicated to the diverse musical spirit of New York City. This LP featured the smash single, "Funkin' For Jamaica," which hit the no. 1 spot on both R & B and soul charts, pushing sales of the *Love Approach* album past the gold mark.

The versatility and expertise that earned Brown acclaim and honor in the world of music were very much in evidence on *Magic*, which included the hit single, "Thighs High," and Browne's influence as a major artist is destined to expand with *Yours Truly*. The impact of the LP can be summed up in the subtitle of "Fungi Mama": "Bebopafunkadiscolypto."

Together with a top-notch crew of instrumentalists and vocalists, Tom Browne will be around for



TOM BROWNE

a while, creating some of the hottest music you'll hear anywhere.

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The Platters

Each of THE PLATTERS, along with musical director-composer, BUCK RAM, were presented a key to the city and an honorary citizenship of the city of New Orleans. This occurred after their second show Thursday, March 24 at the FAIRMONT hotel. The awards were presented by TED JONES, entertainment reporter on Mutual Black Network. After the ceremonies, THE PLATTERS were treated to a traditional New Orleans dish of red beans, rice and hot sauce. The internationally famous group will soon be appearing in Las Vegas at the MARINA Hotel June 9 through July 20.