

Brad Stirtz Jazz Trio Bio

Brad Stirtz earned his Master of Music degree in percussion performance at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. As a jazz/percussion educator, he has served on the faculties of the American Conservatory, Roosevelt University and North Illinois University, and is currently on the faculty at North Central College. He recently received a second Master's degree in Theology from Concordia University Chicago and now serves as Director of Music at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard, Illinois. At Birch Creek, Stirtz is a faculty ensemble performer, directs small ensembles, and teaches improvisation, music theory, and world music. Stirtz is celebrating 43 years with Birch Creek this year.

Greg Marsh found his passion for drumming at an early age and turned that passion into a professional career spanning more than 40 years. He was a member of the New Trier West High School Recording Jazz Ensemble and has performed and recorded with a who's who of artists in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Nashville, Mexico, Ireland and Hawaii. Marsh was recognized for his teaching accomplishments as a member of the staff of AECG (Arts Education for Children Group) where he conducted clinics and workshops. He can be heard on many jingles and records, and has written columns for *Showcase Music Magazine* and *Singer & Musician Magazine*.

Brad and Greg have a rich history in the Chicago music scene. They were co-music directors/musicians in Kevin Matthew's iconic Ed Zeppelin band, performing many concerts in the Midwest at historic theaters and festivals. Kev's famous "Comedy Jam" at Alpine Valley Music Theater ran over four hours featuring Ed Zeppelin with Joe Walsh, Rick Rosas and many other top musical artists and comedians.

Mike Arnopol has played upright and electric bass professionally for the past 35 years. He has played and recorded with many top jazz artists, but is most known for his work with jazz vocalist Patricia Barber for over 25 years. Arnopol is on most of her CD's and has traveled the world with Patricia, headlining at venues like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, as well as many European jazz festivals. Patricia's recordings have been mastered for conventional release (Blue Note Records), as well as for the audiophile market, winning many audiophile awards.