

Chris Weigers – Bass player, Educator - Bio

Bassist and educator Chris Weigers is Head of the Jazz Department at both Kampala Music School and Africa Institute of Music, in Kampala, Uganda, teaching double bass, electric bass, ensembles, and jazz history while also working to develop the school's curriculum as a member of the Academic Board.

As a bassist Chris performs regularly with Ugandan musicians such as “Pragmo” N'saiga, Michael Kitanda, Sandra Nankoma, and Godfrey Lubuulwa. He appears on Charmant Mushaga's “African Love”, a DOA DOA compilation CD, and with the African fusion band “Sabar Zibula”, producing their debut CD “The Journey” in 2015.

Chris is deeply involved with M-Lisada Children's Home for former street children. The motto at M-Lisada (“Music - Life Skills and Destitution Alleviation”) is “Music To The Rescue”, as everyone performs, either in the brass band, acrobatics, culture dance troupe, or the jazz group Chris started. Several former members of his jazz group are now successful working musicians in Kampala.

Chris has organised an annual fundraising event since 2010 to benefit M-Lisada, serving on the Board of Directors of M-Lisada Africa Foundation. He produced a “Playing for Change” concert in Kampala in 2016.

With Ugandan partners, Chris has formed a music licensing company, entitled “We Are African Music” (WAAM) to promote traditional and contemporary Ugandan music for film and TV use.

Chris, born in 1957 in New York, was based there until shifting to Kampala. His musical career began in 1974 touring with the musical “HAIR”. Since then he performed and recorded with artists Bob Mintzer, Russell Ferrante, Robben Ford, Jimmy Haslip, Jason Crosby, Chris Palmaro, Russ Freeman, and John Abercrombie. He has released two CD's; “Horizons”, under his own name in 2004, and Arusha “Look Up” in 2007.

He has studied with Richard Davis, Abraham Laboriel, Gary Willis, Makanda Ken McIntyre, Warren Smith, Allen Hinds, and Otmaro Ruiz.

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