

Chuck Owen Biography (Short Version)

Chuck Owen is Distinguished University Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of South Florida where he also serves as the founding Director of the USF Center for Jazz Composition. A nationally respected educator, having established and developed USF's acclaimed jazz program; he is recognized equally for his unique compositional voice.

The recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship, Owen has written for or had his compositions performed by the: Netherlands' Metropole Orchestra, Brussels Jazz Orch., Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orch., Tonight Show Orchestra, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, and numerous others. Owen's primary creative outlet, however, is his own 18-piece **Jazz Surge**. Founding the ensemble in 1995, Owen serves as conductor, primary composer/arranger, and producer of its five highly-feted CDs - the most recent of which, **River Runs – A Concerto for Jazz Guitar, Saxophone, & Orchestra** (2013) is a stunning 5 movement genre-bending work Rufus Reid describes as, “. . . .a tour de force of contemporary orchestral composition.” Immediately preceding it, **The Comet's Tail** (2009), was nominated for a Grammy Award and critically acclaimed as “riotous and joyous” (JazzTimes), “muscular” (Downbeat), and “deserving of universal attention” (All Music Guide) The ensemble has been featured at prominent jazz fests as well as at conferences in New York, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Owen is also the recipient of the 2000 IAJE/ASCAP Commission, and three Florida Artist Fellowships.

Owen has served as President of the International Association for Jazz Education, as a “governor” for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and as a panelist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Grammy Awards, and numerous regional arts associations. The Director of the USF Jazz Ensemble for 22 years, he led the group in performances at international jazz festivals as well as with renowned guest artists such as Ray Charles, Doc Severinson, and Lionel Hampton. He is the recipient of the President's Award for Faculty Excellence as well as the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.