

## **Atro ”Wade” Mikkola; bassist, composer, lecturer born 1956 in Helsinki, Finland**

**Education:** 1991 Master of Music; Jazz Composition and Arranging, University of Massachusetts  
1989 Bachelor of Music; Afro-American Music and Jazz, - “ -  
1975 High school, Helsingin Normaalityö

**Add'l studies:** 1996-97 Private lessons Donald Shirley (music and history), Robert Field (double bass)  
1991-93 Vermont Jazz Society Workshop (Attila Zoller, Ron McClure, George Mraz)  
1985-87 Jazz In July Workshop in Performance and Improvisation; Univ. of Mass.  
(Billy Taylor, Max Roach, Yusef Lateef, Victor Gaskin).  
1977-78 Workshops at the UMass (Max Roach, Oscar Peterson, Billy Taylor, Archie Shepp, Reggie Workman)

**Double bass studies:** Salvatore Macchia, Victor Gaskin, George Mraz, Robert Field

**Composition studies:** Robert Stern, Frederick Tillis, Yusef Lateef, Jeff Holmes

### **Educational work:**

2014- Sibelius Academy: The Basics of the Finnish Jazz Music History  
2008- Sibelius Academy: The Basics of the Jazz Music History  
2006-2013 Helsinki Polytechnic School: Afro-American Music History and Aesthetics 1-4  
1996 -2010 Pop/Jazz Conservatory: taught double bass and coached bands  
1998-2011 Classic Jazz ry./Otavan Opisto: Jazz-music camp: lectures on  
history, jazz double bass and group performance. As director: 2001,02, 2004 - 2011  
2000 Sokrates – Teacher exchange program; Hochschule der Musik und Darstellende Kunst  
Graz, Itävalta  
1999 International Association of Schools of Jazz, the yearly meeting (Santiago  
de Compostela, Espanja): repr. Pop/Jazz Conservatory, group coaching, double bass  
1997-2003 Sibelius Academy/ Open Univ., lectures on the Hist. of Jazz Music and group coaching  
1993-94 Springfield Community Music School, Ma., USA: taught bass and band playing  
1989-92 University of Massachusetts, teaching assistant: jazz-music theory, history and  
improvisation, general music history, jazz small groups and big bands

### **Performing:**

1996- **Finland:** own groups, Pekka Toivanen Quintet, Antti Sarpila Swing Band, Lasse Hirvi trio, Mikael Långbacka trio, New Orleans Ramblers, Frank Carlberg Quartet, Toivanen-Mikkola big band, Tomi Parkkonen Quartet, Settlemen Big Band, Erik Lindström Dreamteam, Taina Lehto trio, Seija Vesterinen Quartet, Heikki Sarmanto Quintet, Mosabacka Big Band, Jazz Society Orchestra, Polaris Celebration Band, The Contrasts-quintet, The Sunny Side

**Festivals:** Pori Jazz 97, 03,15; Helsinki Festival 97; Ruska Swing 2011, 13, 14;  
Baltic Jazz 2007, 14, 15, 16 ;Forssa Työkijazz 1997-2009; Ylläs Jazz&Blues 2013;  
Imatra Big Band Festival 2000, 03, 04, 07; Kaamosjazz 99, 01, 02, 04, 06, 11, 16  
Korppoo Jazz 2000-03; Tunturi Blues 2002; Otava Happy Jazz 2002; 07, 08, 15  
Helsinki Classic Jazz 1999-2008; April Jazz 2002 - 07; Jyväskylän kesä 2004;  
Elojazz 2005; Ålandia Jazz 2007

**Accompanying visiting musicians:** Ed Thigpen, Leroy Jones, Marvin Stamm, Montenia, Mandy Gaines, Lill Lindfors, Jan Allan, Bruce Adams, Ulf Johansson-Werre, Heinrich von Kalnein, Dwayne Burns, Campbell Burnap, Larry Price, Steve Blailock, Alan Matheson, Raivo Tafenau, Hacke Björkstén, Juli Wood, John Ramsay, Dan Barnett, Tricia Evy, Gunhild Carling

1984-97 **In U.S.A.:** Archie Shepp, Attila Zoller, Nnenna Freelon, Ted Curson, Charles Greenlee, Cecil Payne, Sammy Price, Emery Smith, Harold Holt, Grady Tate, Walter Perkins, Leroy Williams, Freddie Bryant, Peter Bernstein, Eric Alexander, John ja Joe Farnsworth, Vea Williams, Tom Kohl, Andy Bey, Sofia Laiti, Montenia, Andy Jaffe, Sol Yaged  
**Orchestras:** Pioneer Valley Symphony, Pittsfield Symphony, Five College Orch., Springfield Youth Symphony

**Performances abroad:** Vancouver, Kanada; Muhu, Estonia 2015; Tallinna, Pärnu 2014, Amherst, Ma./USA 2014, New York 2013, Rhein, Saksa- Swing-cruise2008, Gdansk, Puola 2008, Tokyo 2007, Vancouver Int'l Jazz Festival 2005, Manila 2005, Tallinn 2004, Paris 2002, Moscow 2001, Graz, Austria 2000; Stockholm 2000, 01; Tallinn Jazzkaar 1998, 99; Singapore 1999; Rheine, Saksa 1999, Krakow, Poland 1998, Karlsruhe, Saksa 1997, Mediterranean cruise, Seabourne Pride 1995

**Discography:** **As leader:** - Alan Matheson&Wade Mikkola Duo: "Summer Evening" (AMK, 2014)  
- Alan Matheson&Wade Mikkola Duo: "Duetti" (AMK, 2013)  
- Contrasts: "The Quintet Live!" (KSJazz, 2011)  
- A.W.M Quartet: "The Impromptu Session" (Chicken Coup, 2011)  
- Contrasts: "The Quintet" (AMK, 2008)  
- "Wade" Mikkola Quintet; feat. Mandy Gaines: "Taking A Chance..." (AMK, 2006)  
- A.W.M. Trio: "Poseidon Rising" (AMK, 2002)  
- A.W.M Quintet: "Muistatko...Remember" (AMK, 1999)  
- Atro"Wade" Mikkola Quartet: "On The Way" (AMK, 1996),

**As sideman:** - "Erik Lindström Awardees" (2011) (as producer)  
- Saara Soisalo: "Second Life" (AMK, 2011)  
- Mandy Gaines + 2: "Have A Seat" (AMK, 2011)  
- Pekka Toivanen Quartet: "Arctic Brambles" (2005)  
- Antti Sarpila Swing Band: "20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" (2002)  
- " " : "She's Funny That Way" (2002)  
- " " : "Swinging Christmas" (2002)  
- Emery Smith: "A Slice of Life" (2000)  
- Pekka Toivanen: "Kantelettaren parhaat" (1999)  
- Montenia and the Wade Mikkola Trio+1: "Each and Every Day" (1999)  
- ESO choir and Jorma Elorinne: "Tuuli soi viestiä" (1998)  
- Dagnello Jazz Quintet: "Fever" (1994)

**Media:** 2001 "Jazzact" Videoseries of Finnish Jazz: played in two sequences  
"The A.W. Mikkola Quintet" and "The Antti Sarpila Swing Band" (YLE-TV)  
1997 Atro"Wade" Mikkola quintet: "Suite a la Mode" (YLE-Radio)  
1987 Bright Moments Festival, vol.2: Jazz In July Express (WGBY-TV)

**Awards:** 2004 - 'Louis Armstrong'- prize – Classic jazz ry., Finland  
1991 - Outstanding Performance Award, Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival  
- " " , Down Beat College Awards  
- Honorable mention, Nat'l Association of Jazz Educators – Competition of Compositions for a large jazz ensemble ("Moments In Blues")  
- Scholarship for excellence in studies, Fletcher Henderson Memorial Scholarship Fund, Univ. of Mass

**Memberships:** The Musicians' Union (Freelance music.), Elvis, Jazz/& Pop archives (board member 2010- ), The Finn. Classic Jazz Soc. (board member 2015- )  
Finnish Double Bass Club, International Society of Bassists  
Jazz Musicians Ass. (board member 2000-11)