

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,
University of Massachusetts

1975

- High school, Helsingin Normaalilyseo

Add'l studies:

1996-97

- Private lessons Donald Shirley (music and history), Robert Field (double bass)
- 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).
- 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:

2014-2023

- Sibelius Academy: The Basics of the Finnish Jazz Music History

2008-2023

- 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 Tyykijazz 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 Björksten, Juli Wood, John Ramsay, Dan Barnett, Tricia Evy, Gunhild Carling, Ilya Lushtak, Grant Stewart

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:

- St.Petersburg 2017, -18
- Viimsi Jazz Fest. 2015, -16
- Vancouver, Can.
- Muhu, Estonia 2015
- Tallinna, Pärnu 2014
- Amherst, Ma./USA 2014
- New York 2013
- Rhein, Germany - Swing-cruise 2008
- 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: "Rainy Night in Helsinki" (AMK, 2017)
- Alan Matheson & Wade Mikkola Duo: "Souvenirs" (AMK, 2017)
- 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:

- "Stjärnenatten" Pamela Kilpeläinen & Heikki Sarmanto (Alba, 2024)
- "Erik Lindström Awardees" (2011) (as a 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: "20th Anniversary" (2002)
- Antti Sarpila Swing Band: "She's Funny That Way" (2002)
- Antti Sarpila Swing Band: "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:

2025

- Finnish Jazz Legend

2004

- "Louis Armstrong"- prize – Classic jazz ry., Finland

1991

- Outstanding Performance Award, Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival
- Outstanding Performance Award, 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 musicians)
- Elvis
- Music Archives (board member 2010-)
- The Finnish Classic Jazz Soc. (board member 2015-)
- Finnish Double Bass Club
- International Society of Bassists
- Jazz Musicians Assoc. (board member 2000-11)