

*The Artist's Corner...*

## What's What With Watrous



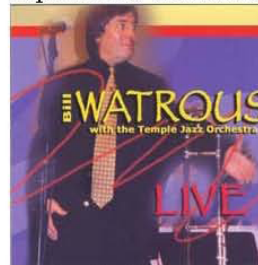
Grammy-nominated trombonist **Bill Watrous** has parlayed considerable talent into an impressive career. Soloist, band-leader, and sideman with such jazz greats as **Woody Herman, Roy Eldridge, and Count Basie**, Watrous has been called "one of the finest bop-oriented trombonists of the past 30 years" by critic Scott Yanow. He was voted the "Number One Jazz Trombonist" in Downbeat Magazine's readers' poll seven years in a row and has won the magazine's Critics Award twice.

A native of Middletown Connecticut, Watrous worked with trombonist **Kai Winding** and did studio work in New York City during the 1960's. In 1971 he was a member of the jazz-rock group **Ten Wheel Drive**. He led his own big band (the **Manhattan Wildlife Refuge**) from 1973 through 1977. The band produced two superb albums for Columbia, one of which, *The Tiger of San Pedro*, was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Performance by a Large Jazz Ensemble.

Based in LA since the early '80's, Watrous has remained active in the studios and the clubs. He has been a guest soloist on countless albums by other prominent jazz musicians, including **Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and Freddie Hubbard**.

One of his projects included having his big band join the jazz-rock group **Chicago** on their album *Night and Day*. His rendition of the Sammy Nestico arrangement of "A Time for Love", recorded in 1993, is familiar even to casual jazz fans.

Watrous and the Temple Jazz Festival go back quite a ways. He was a guest artist with TJO in the mid-nineties, and his return visit in 2003 produced a smoking performance captured on the CD *Bill Watrous with the*



*Temple Jazz Orchestra--LIVE*. Bill joined TJO for a performance at the International Association for Jazz Education conference in New

York City in 2007, and a joint concert in May of 2008 will be released later this year.

Describing Watrous in the New Grove Dictionary of Jazz, Yanow notes, "His effortless virtuosity and fluid solo style have had a significant influence on other trombonists". Watrous plays Friday May 26 with the Temple College Jazz Ensemble.

### ♪ News Notes ♪

**Excerpted from the Central Texas Jazz Society's "Cen Tex Jazz News", March-April 2009.  
Bill Watrous plays Waco on Friday, May 6, 2011.**

Orchestra plays at the Ball Performing Arts Center, McLennan Community College in Waco on May 11.