

# Oran Etkin

Described as a **great clarinetist, excellent improviser** by NY Times Critic Ben Ratliff and **composer of eminent individuality** by one of his mentors, Yusef Lateef, Oran Etkin is a prolific composer and an exciting performer. Noted for his unique sound on the sax, clarinet and bass-clarinet, The Irish Times observed that **Oran Etkin is a musician with his ears wide open, absorbing influences from West Africa, the Far East and Europe... this is world music in the true sense, not a lazy hybrid but a personal sound born out of deep respect for diverse musical traditions.**



His music is featured on several CDs, including a GRAMMY Award winning benefit compilation. **Oran Etkin's most recent release Gathering Light** (Motéma Music), features his trio **with Ben Allison and Nasheet Waits plus guests Curtis Fowlkes and Lionel Loueke**. It incorporates a diversity of musical elements that Etkin picked up touring the world. He is currently touring to support both Gathering Light and **his award winning Timbaloo performance for children, Wake Up, Clarinet!** In 2015-16 he will also tour his next project, **Re-Imagining Benny Goodman**.

***Etkin roots his music deep in many traditions all the while keeping the harmonic palette rich... The whole ensemble seems to have understood that the rich, often plaintive motifs and melodic hooks are not simply foils for bouts of showy soloing*** - Kevin LeGendre JAZZWISE

***So why is clarinetist Oran Etkin's Gathering Light nearly perfect?... what really pushes the recording close to 5-star status is the seemingly effortless chemistry among the five musicians*** - James Hale DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE

## TOURING PROJECTS:

**Gathering Light** - Featuring the core trio with Ben Allison and Nasheet Waits, in addition to guests Curtis Fowlkes and Lionel Loueke, Etkin's latest album challenges the traditional model of "record first, tour second." Etkin first strategically toured in Indonesia, Japan, China, Israel and Europe to draw inspiration before making the record. Gathering Light intriguingly interweaves melodies and rhythms from these regions with Etkin's fresh compositions. In November 2014 Oran presented Gathering Light at at

Contact | **Mo' Connections** | Sabina Czajkowska  
+44 7741094468 | [sabina@moconnections.uk](mailto:sabina@moconnections.uk) | [www.moconnections.uk](http://www.moconnections.uk)  
[www.oranetkin.com](http://www.oranetkin.com)

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Dizzy's (JALC) in New York, Painted Bride in Philadelphia, at "75 years of Blue Note Records" concerts in Paris and during London Jazz Festival, the last one broadcast by BBC Radio 3.

***With authority on each of his instruments, [Etkin leads] a band that makes mobility seem as natural as breathing*** - Nate Chinen THE NEW YORK TIMES

Listen to full CD: [www.oranetkin.com/secret\\_preview.htm](http://www.oranetkin.com/secret_preview.htm)

EPK Video: <http://youtu.be/obsnZcamJBo>

Trio Video: <http://youtu.be/hgzxgpornNQ>

Quintet Video: <http://youtu.be/fvBof5akEoQ>

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**Re-Imagining Benny Goodman** (Projected Release Date September, 2015)

As 2015 is the 80th anniversary of Benny Goodman's famous Palomar concert that started the "Swing Era," Etkin brings together Steve Nelson, Matt Wilson, and Sullivan Fortner for a creative homage to the groundbreaking quartet of Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Teddy Wilson and Gene Krupa of the 1930s. Etkin employs this unique instrumentation to push the music in new directions, capturing Benny Goodman's spirit of innovation in swing. This project will be released in Sept 2015 and tour during the 2015-16 season as well as selected summer 2015 engagements as special pre-release shows. In November 2015 Etkin will be featured at NDR Radio for concerts and live radio recordings with this project in Germany.

Live Video From Jazz At Lincoln Center: [www.oranetkin.com/rbgvideo.htm](http://www.oranetkin.com/rbgvideo.htm)

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**About the "Wake Up, Clarinet!" concert for kids:**

Oran Etkin's award winning children's CD Wake Up, Clarinet! (Motema) brings the instruments to life, telling the story of a sleepy clarinet named "Clara Net" and her mother, "Big Mama Tuba!". In the live concerts, the children wake Clara Net up and she calls for her mother. Big Mama Tuba makes a dramatic entrance from the back of the audience as the kids sing "Big Mama Tuba, why don't you come out and play". Together with the full band, Clara Net, Big Mama Tuba and Oran take the kids on an interactive journey to discover music from all around the world.

Live Video: <http://youtu.be/hSYEARTMLHA> | [www.timbalooloo.com](http://www.timbalooloo.com)

***Our son was talking about Herbie Hancock, Mozart, Samba, and African music  
- and he knew the difference!*** Harvey Keitel

***Immediately connects to a child's imagination*** Edie Falco

***Sophisticated concepts in a fun musical language kids can understand*** L.A. Daily News

Recent Timbalooloo Performances: Newport Jazz Festival (USA), Calgary International Jazz Festival (Canada), ELB Jazz Festival (Germany), NYC Central Park SummerStage (USA), Tempo Jazz Festival (France), Tokyo Keo Plaza Hotel (Japan), Changsha International Jazz Festival (China), Tribeca Performing Arts Center (USA), UNESCO International Jazz Day in Paris (France)

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