



### **Carl Block, Bass Trombone**

Raised in a musical family, Carl started playing guitar (badly) at the age of 8, taking guitar lessons at Piano's & Stuff. At the age of 12, a wise music teacher recommended he switch to trombone, based solely on the length of his arms. This fortuitous change opened up a wide variety of music for him, from orchestral classics to dixieland, swing, jazz, rock and New Age.

When Carl went to Carnegie Mellon University to pursue degrees in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering, he was fortunate to continue trombone lessons with Randy Purcell, the director of CMU's Jazz program. In addition to playing with the CMU Jazz Ensemble, Carl also played with a local swing band - George Gee and the Make-Believe Ballroom Orchestra. For two summers, he played (6 shows/day, 6 days/week) at Kennywood Park with Razmataz, a show band with singers & dancers. During this time, he also played with a dixieland band on Pittsburgh's riverboats, and with a local New Age band, The Affordable Floors.

Lately, Carl has been playing with four bands: He's the bass trombonist in the Big Fat Jazz Band, based in Springdale, PA. With the Chuck Cravotta Band, he gets to play dance music from the 70's & 80's. The Soul Merchants are a six-piece band that covers a wide range of musical genres, including blues, soul, rock, and jazz. Most recently, he started playing bass trombone with the Glass City Swing Band, and is enjoying the band's great library of classic big band swing charts.