

# Ian Tordella

**"Restless, inquisitive, and unstintingly melodic, Magnolia is a record that wants to take you places."**

–San Diego City Beat

**"[Tordella] has the light, upper-register saxophone tone that Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, and Joe Lovano had as his ancestors."**

–Herman te Loo, JazzFlits Magazine

**"Tordella creates some wonderful melodies and solos which employ thematic variation and make enough use of negative space to keep things interesting."**

–David Hill, jazzhothouse.com



Magnolia is the debut release from southern California saxophonist and composer Ian Tordella. The album features Tordella in quintet and quartet formats along with guitarist Jeff Miles, bassist Jeff Denson, drummer Brian McLaughlin, and German pianist Florian Weber. Tordella's compositions range from rock-influenced post-jazz, to contemporary ballads, to swinging modern jazz. The playing, while never blatantly departing from form and melody, is adventurous and decidedly modern. Bassist Denson and pianist Weber (both members of Lee Konitz New Quartet) work seamlessly as a unit with Los Angeles drummer McLaughlin. Weber, who has toured in both the classical and jazz worlds, is a showcase of

blazing technique and intriguing melodic ideas. Guitarist Jeff Miles (2008 winner of the Montreux Jazz Guitar Competition) lends unique color to the melodies as well as an angular solo on the second track. Tordella's striking improvisations range from understated to dense and winding, frequently making use of the saxophone's extended upper register.

**Short Bios:** Ian Tordella is from a new breed of modern tenor saxophonists who are willing to explore the upper reaches of the instrument's range. As a composer, he draws from a spectrum of different influences and styles - everything from modern jazz and electronic music to artists as diverse as Stereolab, Joe Henderson, and Me'Shell N'Degeocello. Originally from the Washington, D.C. area, Tordella cut his teeth in jazz and funk-oriented groups, and by performing and sitting in with local veterans like Blue Note bassist Butch Warren, and Miles Davis drummer Ricky Wellman. Since relocating to California in 2002, Tordella has been active in the local scene frequently leading his own trios and quartets, and collaborating with other artist like bassist Rob Thorsen, altoist David Negrete, guitarist Joey Carano, and pianist Joshua White. He has performed at festivals in the U.S., Mexico, and Colombia.

Bassist Jeff Denson and pianist Florian Weber both attended Berklee College of Music and have been longtime bandmates in both the trio Minsarah and in the Lee Konitz New Quartet. They have released numerous albums on the Enja label, the latest of which is a live concert at the Village Vanguard as part of Mr. Konitz's group. Drummer and percussionist Brian McLaughlin is a versatile player proficient in a variety of genres and has toured extensively in the US, Europe, and South America as both a leader and a sideman. He currently resides in Los Angeles where he performs regularly with various groups and composes for film and television. Guitarist Jeff Miles also studied at Berklee, and now lives in Brooklyn, NY, where he is in-demand for both recording sessions and as a sideman.

Artist Website: [iantordella.com](http://iantordella.com)

Hi-Res Images: [iantordella.com/contact.htm](http://iantordella.com/contact.htm)

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