



BIO: Dave Dilzell

C/O New Jersey Workshop for the Arts
150-152 East Broad Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Phone: 908-400-1952
Email: info@fullcountbigband.com
<http://www.fullcountbigband.com>

Dave Dilzell, Tenor Sax

My first exposure to jazz was in the early 70's when my father ordered "The Swing Era," a collection of remakes of the original big band classics from 1930 through the 1950's. Every other month he would receive a couple of 8-track tapes (remember them?) covering the hits of a 2 year period. One day I started listening on my own, just out of curiosity. The Benny Goodman stuff really caught my interest, and within a few months I was struggling with a clarinet.

My first live jazz experience was Count Basie – not a concert, but an actual dance at the Watchung View Inn in 1973. I went as a 14 year-old with my parents and their friends. While they danced, I stood against the wall right next to the rhythm section (which included Freddie Green on guitar and Sonny Payne on drums) and studied the band. What struck me were the band's precision, power and seemingly effortless ability to swing. What also caught my attention was the tenor sax player, Jimmy Forrest, who was featured on his famous composition "Night Train." Soon after that experience, I got myself a tenor since I knew I'd have to play sax to get into a big band.



I joined my high school stage band and continued to play in bands through college and graduate school. After about a 7 year hiatus, I joined the Kings Road Swing Band out of Watchung for a few years. All the while I continued to listen to and learn about all the great instrumentalists and vocalists from swing, bebop and beyond with the help of WBGO, WKCR, and a cousin at Polygram Records who supplied me with dozens of free albums on the Verve label. I also continued to catch the Basie Band, Stan Getz, Zoot Sims and others live whenever I could.

I've been with Full Count for a few years now, which, along with my wife and daughters, keeps me sane.