

## **SRO Artists, Inc.**

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### **ARTIST BIO: Randy Sabien**

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In the fourth grade, Randy Sabien signed on to play drums for the youth orchestra in Rockford, Illinois. Someday he would be a great rock and roll drummer. However, his plans changed when the orchestra director found himself short on string players. Randy wound up with a bow in his hand instead of drumsticks.

NPR's Jazz Profiles dubbed Randy as "The past, present and future of jazz violin." His eclectic style started with classical violin lessons. From there he learned how to play along with records by the Grateful Dead, Papa John Creach, James Taylor and others. He continued his study of classical music at the University of Illinois, augmenting his formal education with as a country/rock fiddler. But his most pivotal musical influence came when he first heard the music of the great jazz violinist, Stephane Grapelli. With a new musical focus, he began learning and playing the jazz of the 30s, 40s and 50s on his violin.

In 1977, Randy enrolled at The Berklee College of Music in Boston. One year later, at the age of 21, he returned to found and chair their new string department. He stayed there for another three years.

After Berklee, Randy performed with and produced three albums for Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Jim Post. This led to violin, mandolin, guitar and piano accompaniment for a host of singer/songwriters. In between folk gigs, He worked on material for an album with his newly formed jazz quintet.

The album that emerged from all of these influences was a colorful, melodic, energetic album of blues based jazz. **In a Fog** was released and sent out for review by Flying Fish Records. *Billboard*, *Jazz Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *USA Today* gave it glowing reviews. He was also voted Artist Deserving Wider Recognition in *downbeat* magazine's annual critic's poll.

In 1989, Randy followed his heart to northern Wisconsin where he started his own record label, Fiddlehead Music. Since then, he has released another five titles, with two more in the works. His discography is predominantly jazz with a couple of albums that cover swing, roots blues and rock and roll from the sixties. He also plays regularly a jazz violin, guest soloist with symphonies across the country.

Hayward, Wisconsin is home to Randy and his family. If you can't get him on the phone, he's probably out back trying to catch a big fish or start the Gravely. He'll get right back to you.

### **PEAK PERFORMANCES**

Austin City Limits

Bop Shop

Café Carpe

Daytona Jazz Festival

Juneau Jazz Festival

Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua

Winnipeg Flk Festival

### **MUSICAL LIAISONS**

Greg Brown

Pat Donohue

Mimi Farina

Prudence Johnson

Jim Post

Kate Wolf

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS**

Anchorage

Fairbanks

Grant Park

**RADIO & TV**

NPR's Jazz Profiles

Prairie Home Companion

WI Public Television Special, 1984

WI Public Television Special, 1991

**TEACHING EXPERIENCES**

American String Workshop

Berklee College of Music

Eastman School of Music

International String Workshops