

Steve Swell, born in Newark, New Jersey, has been living, working and performing in New York City his entire adult life. In the mid-seventies he studied with Roswell Rudd, Grachan Moncur III and Jimmy Knepper. He's toured and recorded with such diverse jazz personalities from mainstreamers Lionel Hampton and Buddy Rich, to contemporary artists like Anthony Braxton, Cecil Taylor, William Parker and others. Swell has 40 recordings as a leader or co-leader and is a featured artist on more than 100 other releases. His CD, "Soul Travelers" (RogueArt) was an Album of the Year in 2016 by the NYC Jazz Record. His CD "Music For Six Musicians: Hommage a Olivier Messiaen" was in NPR's top 50 Albums for 2018. He received grants from USArtists International in 2006, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, an MCAF award (LMCC) in 2008 & 2013 and was commissioned for the Interpretations Series at Merkin Hall in 2006 and again in 2012 & 2017 at Roulette. He was the Jazz Journalist's Association Trombonist of the Year nominee for 2008, 2011 & 2020, named Trombonist of the Year 2008-2010, 2012 and 2014-2020 by El Intruso, an Argentinean Jazz journal and selected for the 2010-2018, 2020 Downbeat Critics Poll in the Trombone category. Steve is also an inaugural recipient of a Jazz Road Tours Grant (SouthArts) in 2019 and received a Creative Engagement Grant Teaching Artist (LMCC) in 2020. He is also a teaching artist in NYC public school system working with special needs children and was awarded the 2008 Jubilation Foundation Fellowship Award of the Tides Foundation for recognition of that work.