



Mario Abney
Dayton, OH
Trumpet
Composer

Mario is graduate from Central State University, School of Music, in Jazz Studies. Mario brings to the group a cool and melodic sound, combined with pure fire influenced by Roy Hargrove, Jerry Gonzalez and Miles Davis. You can always find Mario around town with his quintet, or sitting in with everyone he can. Mario is talented multi-instrumentalist at ease on the piano, the drums, or his trumpet. The other members -- Abney, Ogina Allen, Gregory Hartinson, Garrette Horne, Rhythm Borage, Dylan Schwartz and Kaliq Woods -- have their own bands, but join the Caravan when they can, performing on the streets about three or four times during the week. They're an eclectic bunch and Mario, with his blue head rag and basketball jersey, could fit right in the rap scene, but his muse is decidedly different. A jazz studies student at Ohio's Central State University, he started out playing trumpet at Thornton Township High school in south suburban Chicago. Abney says the streets are a training ground for music. "This is the way we can educate people about music," he says. "Everybody has to come out on the streets at sometime or another. For the people who don't go to jazz clubs, and have business downtown, they're going to hear us." Steve Hawkins, also a trumpet player, has blown his horn on the streets for more than 20 years. He has praise for Abney: "He's fine, he's great, I've been trying to learn from him, he's one of my teachers." Hearing this, Abney just laughs, picks up horn, looks up at the El and blows.