

Australian saxophonist Jay Byrnes is one of the most pre-eminent faces in the Australian saxophone scene both as a performer and educator. Based in Sydney, Jay is the founder of the Saxophone Academy Sydney, a unique saxophone school that promotes exciting opportunities with international and domestic artists for students and professionals alike.

Jay completed his Bachelor of Music (B.Mus) in 2004 at 'Sydney Conservatorium of Music', a Masters of Music Degree (M.Mus) in 2010 at Escola Superior de Música e das Artes do Espectáculo (ESMAE) Portugal, and is currently in the final stages of completing his Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) at Sydney University, specialising in the performance and transcription of tango music.

Jay's performance and research is focused on transcriptions and the investigation of performance practices of different styles and periods with a particular focus on both Baroque and Latin American music. Jay is also an incredibly versatile performer working with musicians from many different genres.

Aside from his performance and research Jay has international experience as a saxophone educator.

From 2003-2005 he worked with the Sydney Conservatorium and Mark Walton in the pioneering program of video conferencing. Since then Jay has held teaching positions in the United Kingdom, (2004-2007 - 'The Hall School', and the 'City of London Boys School') in Venezuela (2008-2010 - El Sistema, Caracas) and he has given masterclasses at the Conservatorio de Astor Piazzolla, Buenos Aires - Argentina, Conservatorio de Musica Simon Bolivar in Caracas, Barquisimeto, Valencia, and Puerto La Cruz - Venezuela. Domestically in Australia Jay is currently a lecturer at Sydney University, and saxophone tutor at the Sydney Grammar School junior and Senior campuses' since 2011. He has also been guest tutor at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

As a performer Jay has performed throughout Europe, South America and Australasia. He is an advocate of chamber music, being a founder member of 'Nexas Saxophone Quartet', 'Breathing Winds', 'Hadj Saxophone Quartet', 'Sydney Saxophone Collective' and 'Alianza Banda de Tango'. Jay has also performed with many orchestras including Simon Bolivar Orchestra (Venezuela), Simon Bolivar Symphonic Wind Orchestra (Venezuela), Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, Kuring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, SBS Youth Orchestra, Sydney Youth Orchestra, and Sydney Conservatorium Orchestra.

Jay has worked extensively with new and established composers in premiering and promoting new repertoire for the saxophone premiering works by Fernando Lerman, Fernando Muslera, Liduino Pitombeira, Juan Maria Solare, Stephen Yates, Gijs Van Dijk, Tjako Van Schie, Michael Jamison, David Slater, David Basden, Mark Oliveira, Amanda Cole, Margery Smith, and Chiel Meijering.

Jay is a D'addario Gold Artist, proudly performing and recommending Rico Reserve Reeds since 2011 and an endorsed artist for EGR ligatures since 2013.

Jay has a long lasting relationship with Yanagisawa Saxophones and is passionately advocates their equipment. Jay has offered support and expertise through private testings for the selection of their instruments for the youth, adults and professionals alike for the last 10 years both in the UK and Australia, and is extremely excited to become an official Yanagisawa International Artist.