



NEXAS SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Based in Sydney Australia, the *Nexas Quartet* is focused on promoting the musical plurality of the saxophone, showcasing its versatility and ability to cross genres. This unique approach has enabled the ensemble to perform throughout Australia and internationally, displaying the diversity of the repertoire.

The ensemble regularly performs a diverse repertoire that reflects their artistic direction ranging from transcriptions, standard and contemporary repertoire, to collaborations with theatre companies and premiering and commissioning new works. 2013 saw the group perform at the prestigious APRA Awards as well as at the heart of Australia in Uluru for Darwin Symphony's *Symphony at Uluru*. 2014 marked a banner year for the ensemble as they embarked on their inaugural annual concert series. Sell out concerts have been the hallmark of the series including collaborations with some of Australia's finest musicians. Guest artists have included: Gerard Willems AM (pianist), Daniel Rojas (pianist), Nicky Crayson (jazz vocalist), David Theak (jazz saxophonist and bandleader), Frank Celata (SSO clarinetist) and Peter Coleman-Wright (opera singer). Other activities in 2015 are a collaboration with composer and sound artist Drew Crawford on the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of "Jumpy" as well as performing Elena Kats-Chernin's "From Anna Magdalena's Notebook" at the World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, France.

Being open-minded to new and innovative music, Nexas have had many Australian works commissioned and dedicated to them by composers such as Lachlan Skipworth, Amanda Cole, Anthony Moles, David Slater and Marcus Whale.

Michael Duke - Soprano Saxophone

Born in Melbourne Australia, Michael Duke completed his Bachelor of Music degree with honors at Melbourne University's Victorian College of the Arts under the instruction of saxophonist Graeme Shilton. He received both Master's and Doctorate Degrees in Music Performance from Indiana University studying under the tutelage of renowned classical saxophonists Eugene Rousseau, Thomas Walsh, Jean-Yves Fourmeau and Arno Bornkamp. While pursuing jazz studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, Duke studied with Shannon LeClaire, Jim Odgren and George Garzone and performed in the ensembles of Phil Wilson, Greg Hopkins, Victor Mendoza, and Joe Lovano.

Throughout Australia and abroad, Duke has engaged in an extensive performance career. He has performed with many of Australia's premiere orchestras including the Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Orchestra Victoria, the Australian

Nexas Quartet
c/o 6A Lilla Rd
Pennant Hills
NSW 2120 Australia

F +61 2 405 504 449
E info@nexasquartet.com
www.nexasquartet.com

ABN 98535548953



Philharmonic and Pops Orchestra, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In the United States he has performed with the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra (Kentucky), the Camerata Symphony Orchestra (Indiana), the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, and the Cedar Rapids Symphony (Iowa). In the spring of 2002 Duke won the Indiana University Woodwind Concerto Competition for his performance of Jacques Ibert's "Concertino da camera" for alto saxophone and orchestra. On the national and world stages he has been invited to perform at numerous North American Saxophone Alliance National conferences, four World Saxophone Congresses, and has lectured at the Australian National Band and Orchestra Clinic. In 2010 Duke was a featured artist at the prestigious International Society for Contemporary Music World New Music Days conference in Sydney, Australia where he presented two concerts of new music for saxophone. As a freelance musician in the Boston area, Duke has backed such varied artists as Gloria Estefan, The Four Tops, Bill Cosby and Gary Burton. He has also performed with the Danilo Perez Big Band, the Jim Widner Big Band, and the Greg Hopkins Big Band. In addition to being active as a clinician and tutor, Duke has taught on the faculty of Simpson College in Iowa (2002-2005), Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts (2007-2008), and as an Associate Instructor at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana (1998-2000). Beginning in July 2008, Duke commenced his appointment as the first ever full-time classical saxophone lecturer in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney University. Duke has three commercially released Cd's on the Cala (UK) and Saxophone Classics (UK) labels. Duke is a Yamaha Australia performing artist.

www.michael-duke.com

ANDREW SMITH - ALTO SAXOPHONE

Andrew Smith is a Sydney based freelance saxophonist who is highly active in new music, having premiered and workshopped countless new works involving saxophone. Andrew is a highly active performer who can be frequently seen performing in chamber (Chronology Arts, the Nexas Saxophone Quartet, The Sax Summit), orchestral (Sydney Symphony Orchestra) and solo settings. Andrew has performed as part of the Sydney Festival, Sydney Fringe Festival, Aurora Festival, ISCM, and World Saxophone Congress. International performances have seen travels to Scotland, France, Hong Kong and China.

In his saxophone study Andrew was awarded both a B.Mus (Hons) and M.Mus from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The study of the latter was undertaken with the assistance of the prestigious Henderson Postgraduate Award. Throughout his tertiary study Andrew won numerous competitions and received a number of scholarships as well as furthering his studies with numerous European sojourns.

www.asmithsax.com



NATHAN HENSHAW - TENOR SAXOPHONE

Nathan is a renowned Australian saxophonist recognised for his musical diversity and interest in promoting the saxophone in any medium. His commitment to the musical plurality of the saxophone has led him to pursue a vast array of performance opportunities and in the process, has resulted in the composition or creation of new works for the instrument.

Nathan studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and completed a Bachelor of Music (Honours). Nathan also undertook further studies with renowned saxophonists in France and the United Kingdom.

Nathan pursued further study at the Sydney Conservatorium and completed his Masters of Music Performance Research in 2010. He was awarded the Estalaman Layman Martin Harrison Scholarship to undertake this research. His masters dissertation 'Blowing Zen', examined the influences of non-Western philosophy on the interpretation of contemporary saxophone repertoire. Nathan is currently completing his Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) at the University of Sydney and was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Award and the Kirkpax Trust Scholarship to assist with his research. The current focus of his research is examining the interpretive challenges faced by classical musicians when they are required to perform works within a jazz style, focussing on the saxophone.

As a performer, Nathan performed in Australia and internationally in a variety of musical settings ranging from solo classical performances to jazz gigs and has provided him the opportunity to work with a diverse range of renowned Australian and international performers and ensembles such as Tim Minchin, Ben Folds, Kenny Rogers, Randy Newman, The Chaser, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Richard Gill, Eddie Perfect, Nigel Butterly, George Dreyfus, Claude Delangle, Niels Bijl, The Four Baritones, Mario Marzi, Rhonda Burchmore, Barry Cockcroft, Todd McKenney, WIN Wollongong Symphony Orchestra, NSW Police Band, Sydney Conservatorium Saxophone Quartet, Compass, Continuum Sax, Chronology Arts, Rivers and Roads and SBS Television and Radio Orchestra.

As well as freelance work, Nathan is also is a full time member of the Nexas Quartet, Heavy Metal Quartet, Sax Summit, Sydney Saxophone Collective and Rarefied Air.

In conjunction with his performance work, Nathan teaches and tutors around Australia (primarily based in the Sydney area). He is also lecturing in saxophone at the Open Academy and Foundation Program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Nathan is a Selmer Paris and Silverstein artist.

www.nathanhenshaw.com



JAY BYRNES - BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Having completed a Bachelor of Music Degree (B.Mus) in 2004 at 'Sydney Conservatorium of Music' with Mark Walton and James Nightingale, Jay divided his time performing, teaching and lecturing throughout Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Penrith Conservatorium, Orange Conservatorium, and the Yamaha Connect program along with many schools in New South Wales. During this time Jay was invited to become a saxophone teacher in the pioneering field of video conferencing with Mark Walton, where Jay taught students from country Australia through video, allowing students in distant areas the same opportunities as those in the city.

In 2004 Jay toured New Zealand as a performer and lecturer with the Sydney Conservatorium. He was given the role of 'Supervisor' for this tour where he performed and taught throughout the south island with the saxophone students of the Sydney Conservatorium. Also during 2004 Jay furthered his study at the 'European University of the Saxophone' held in Gap, France, performing in masterclasses and receiving lessons from world class saxophonists Claude Delangle, Arno Bornkamp, Vincent David, Christian Wirth, Fabrizio Mancuso, Philippe Braquart and the Diastema Saxophone Quartet.

After this time Jay spent 2 years teaching, lecturing and performing in Europe with London as his home base. Jay was head saxophone teacher at 'The Hall School', and the 'City of London Boys School'. He also began working at 'Howarth of London' where he trained in instrument and mouthpiece repair and design, as well as being a sales assistant. Jay had the opportunity to lecture at The Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester), Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Edinburgh), The Purcell School, Birmingham Conservatoire, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Northern Sinfonia (Newcastle UK) on the art of saxophone mouthpieces. Jay also performed in chamber music during this time as tenor saxophonist for the Lunar Saxophone Quartet and as a founding member of Hadj Quartet.

During Jay's time in Europe he performed at Amsterdam Conservatory, Torino Town Hall (Torino, Italy), World Saxophone Congress (Slovenia), and Gap Cathedral (Gap, France) along with many other venues, being asked by 'Yanagisawa saxophones' after his performance in Slovenia to become a UK Yanagisawa endorsee.

In 2006 Jay was accepted into post graduate studies (Masters of music) at the Amsterdam Conservatory, however he declined the offer to continue his busy career as a performer and educator back in Sydney, Australia.

In 2007 Jay moved to Portugal where he completed a Masters of Music degree (M.Mus) (first in class) at ESMAE in Porto, studying under the world's leading baritone saxophone specialist Henk Van Twillert, as well as Gilberto Bernardes and Fernando Ramos whilst furthering his career as an international soloist performing throughout Europe, South America and Australia.

After completing his Masters of Music, Jay moved to Caracas, Venezuela to take



up the position of Head Saxophone Professor at Caracas Conservatorio as part of El Sistema, Venezuela. During this time Jay lectured in saxophone throughout Venezuela not only in Caracas but in Barquisimeto and Puerto La Cruz also. Jay held this position from May 2009 until July 2010.

Orchestras and Bands Jay has performed with include Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra (Venezuela), Simon Bolivar Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, SBS Youth Orchestra, Sydney Youth Orchestra, Sydney Conservatorium Orchestra as well as 'The Enormous Horns' and 'Wonderbrass'.

Jay is also an advocate of chamber music where he has been a founding member of 'Nexas Saxophone Quartet', 'Breathing Winds', 'Hadj Saxophone Quartet', JSB Quartet, 'Johann Sax Trio' and 'Ventos Novos'.

Jay has also worked extensively with new and established composers in promoting new repertoire for the saxophone premiering works by Stephen Yates, Gijs Van Dijk, Tjako Van Schie, Michael Jamison, David Slater, David Basden, Mark Oliveiro, Amanda Cole, Margery Smith and Chiel Mejerling.

www.jaybyrnes.com