

Annotated list of SAXOPHONE GREATS compiled submitted by Chuck Currie

Sax Noir Studio <http://www.saxnoir.com/>>www.saxnoir.com

Soprano

1. Eugene Rousseau: Cimarosa Allegro Giusto One of the greatest players and teachers in the world. One of the few musicians left who studied with Marcel Mule, father of the French saxophone school.
2. Branford Marsalis: Ravel Prelude From a famous jazz family, he has recorded two classical discs.
3. Albert Regni: Piazzolla La Evasion The founder/leader of the American Sax Quartet, Regni is principal sax w the NY Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and NY Ballet Orchestras & professor of saxophone at the College of New Jersey.

Alto

4. Eugene Rousseau Paul Creston Sonata 3rd Movement
5. Johnny Hodges: All Of Me The great lead alto of Duke Ellington's band for over 50 years. Never played an out of tune note in his life, inimitable warmth and master of glisses and bent notes.
6. Paul Desmond: Take 10 Famous with the Dave Brubeck quartet, one of the greatest gifts for melody in the history of jazz. He characterized his own tone as that of "a dry martini."
7. Julia Nolan: Paule Maurice Tableaux de Provence 1st Mve. A student of Dr Rousseau's, one of Canada's top saxophonists, living in Vancouver.
8. Cannonball Adderley: Nancy With The Laughing Face Bop player who added "soul" to his sound in the 60's.
9. Art Pepper: Fascinatn' Rhythm Influenced first by Lester Young and Lee Konitz, then by John Coltrane, one of the most intense soloists of the bop and post-bop schools. Beautiful sound, beautiful conception.

Tenor

10. James Houlik: Morton Gould Diversions Rags and Waltzes A beautiful pure classical Tenor sound from a man who is championing this instrument as a solo voice. He has commissioned over 70 works for the classical tenor.
11. Coleman Hawkins/Ben Webster: You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To. Two of the seminal jazz tenor players from the '30s. Webster's softer, more airy sound is the first solo. Hawkins has a more driving rhythmic style and slightly harder tone.
12. Dexter Gordon: Smile Combined the sound of Coleman Hawkins with the harmony of Charlie Parker. Had way more technique than he tended to show. Big influence on John Coltrane and Sonny Rollins.
13. John Harle Richard Rodney Bennet Concerto for Stan Getz An English classical player who uses jazz inflections and "calls" in this crossover concerto.
14. Stan Getz: O Pato A light toned melodic player who created a craze for the Bossa Nova (new wave) from Brazil in the 60's.
15. Sonny Rollins: Body and Soul A strong player of long inventive solos, famously retreated to practice from the top of a bridge in the late 50's to develop his sound and concept. This a capella solo is the kind of thing that can only be pulled off by a master.

Baritone

- 16/17 Todd Oxford Bach Menuetto 1st Suite for Solo Cello/ Bozza Caprice Possibly the greatest classical Baritone saxophonist. He was in 2nd year university when invited to join the legendary Harvey Pittel sax quartet.
18. Gerry Mulligan: I'll Be Around The man who brought lightness of tone and subtle melodic nuance to the Jazz baritone.
19. Gary Smulyan: Lush Life Possibly the greatest current jazz bari player. A disciple of the great Pepper Adams, whose seat he inherited in the Village Vanguard Orchestra.
20. Denis Diblasio: September in the Rain Another rival for best current jazz bari.

Ensembles

21/22. Gerald Danovitch Sax Quartet: Dubois Quatuor Montreal Classical quartet plays effervescent French literature for this most expressive chamber wind instrumental grouping.

23. New York Saxophone Quartet: Wapango. Written by Cuban sax virtuoso Paquito d’Rivera, this demonstrates the jazz side of saxophone quartets.

24/25. Mi-Bemol Sax Ensemble: Mozart Presto/Brahms Hungarian Dance

This Japanese 18 piece saxophone orchestra demonstrates the delicacy, precision and power of the saxophone & its ability to play convincingly a wide variety of styles of music written long before its invention.