



Milano
SAXOPHONE
Quartet

www.milanosaxquartet.com
info@milanosaxquartet.com



Milano Saxophone Quartet

WHO WE ARE

The **Milano Saxophone Quartet** was established thanks to four Italian musicians from four different parts of Italy: Trentino, Veneto, Piemonte and Lombardia.

EDUCATION AND CONCERTS

Thanks to their international education from the most world-renowned soloists in France, Austria and Italy they developed a virtuosity and a musicality today everywhere appreciated.

They performed in the best theatre in the world like: Konzerthaus Vienna, Gasteig Monaco, Cité de la Musique Paris, Teatro del Lago Cile, Taipei National Concert Hall and the Teatro alla Scala of Milano .

PROJECTS

- **Italian sax in tour:** CD presentation
- **Dulce et decorum est**, music for saxophone quartet and choir. The project was premiered in Vienna and Ypres (Belgium).
- **MAI SOLI project**, collaborations with international musicians.
- **Organ project**, a project dedicated to the music for saxophone quartet and organ. The first concert was performed at the Sardinia organ fest.
- **MSQ and Antonella Ruggiero**, saxophone quartet and voice.
- **MSQ Contemporary project**, contemporary music project dedicated to the original works for sax quartet and to the contemporary composers
- **Straoppatempo**: the wonderful history of music from Mozart to the most famous pop songs.

ACTIVITY

The activities of the quartet are numerous: concerts, research and collaboration with composer and discography activity. They performed at different important festivals like Festival Internazionale di Musica "A tempo", the XXVIII Festival Internazionale del Saxofono di Fermo, Vienna Saxfest, il Sardinia OrganFest , Milano Musica, and many others. Moreover, they played world premieres of composers like Mario Pagotto, Sandro Fazzolari, Maarten De Splenter, Alberto Schiavo.

The new cd *Musica Ficta* with the label ARS (Germany), consists of different interesting classical pieces. Starting from the example of the re-elaboration of Canzoniere da Scarlatti by Salvatore Sciarrino, the programme proposes other interesting re-elaborations for saxophone quartet of the main instrumental works by the most famous Italian opera composers like Verdi and Puccin.

Current projects of **Milano Saxophone Quartet**

The members of the Milano saxophone quartet are **D'Addario** and **Selmer Artist**

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MILANO SAXOPHONE QUARTET

presents

ITALIAN SAX ON TOUR

CD PRESENTATION

Damiano Grandesso Soprano saxophone

Stefano Papa Alto saxophone

Massimiliano Girardi Tenor saxophone

Livia Ferrara Bariton saxophone

The project presents a concert with an Italian programme, which emphasises the virtuosity and the unique sonority of a saxophone quartet. The programme of the next CD, made in collaboration with the label ARS (Germany), consists of different interesting classical pieces. Starting from the example of the re-elaboration of Canzoniere da Scarlatti by Salvatore Sciarrino, the programme proposes other interesting re-elaborations for saxophone quartet of the main instrumental works by the most famous Italian opera composers like Verdi and Puccini. The first piece is a reelaboration from the Canzoniere da Scarlatti by Salvatore Sciarrino: one of the most famous contemporary composers. A special mix between the present and the past which guarantees a sure appreciation of a wide audience. The second piece is the unique chamber work by Giuseppe Verdi: the string quartet. Puccini and Gabrieli complete this circle of a completely Italian repertoire that unifies tradition, lyricism and innovation. The programme presents a perfect mix of original and traditional repertoire with a new instrument very well known in the classical and contemporary music.

PROGRAM

Giovanni Gabrieli "Canzona a 4"

Domenico Scarlatti / Salvatore Sciarrino
"Canzoniere da Scarlatti"

Giuseppe Verdi / Alberto di Priolo
"Quartetto in mi minore"

Giacomo Puccini "Crisantemi"

MS



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MSQ



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An original program dedicated to the saxophone and choir solely, centred on the theme of the war and on the dignity of men as such. The project was also intended for the occasion of the centenary of the First World War. In collaboration with the Belgian composer Maarten De Splenter, the MSQ created this project with a wide range of sonority and colours. Three works are presented: one by the Belgian Maarten De Splenter and further two by the Georgian composer Gyia Kancheli and the German Bernd Franke. The concept of the project is centred on the importance of the human reason, its prevalence over all other things, and on the nonsense of war. These themes unify the thought that the human being is the essential being who can hold peace and harmony between peoples.

PROGRAM

PAX PRO PATRIA di Maarten De Splenter

Premiered at the Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres (Belgium) on the 3rd of May 2015. The piece was premiered by the Milano Saxophone Quartet at the centenary of the composition of the work "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae written in May 1915. The concert, held in the house of John McCrae, in Ontario, the birthplace of the Canadian military doctor, was live broadcasted. The work Pax Pro Patria consists of three poems related to the gas attacks during World War I and set to music by the Belgian Composer Maarten De Splenter, born in Ypres.

The work:

- 1. Dulce et Decorum Est (Wilfred Owen)** – for choir, bariton and saxophone quartet.
- 2. In Flanders Fields – In 't Vlaamse Veld** (John McCrae, Dutch translation by Koen van Dijk) for bariton, treble voice, piano and saxophone quartet.
- 3. Christmas 1924** (Thomas Hardy) – for bariton, treble voice, piano and saxophone quartet.

AMAO OMI di Gyia Kancheli "War is senseless"

"The anguish produced by conflict - and its universality - is a pervasive theme in Kancheli's music. In Amao Omi, he chose individual Georgian words - related mostly to nature, Christianity and to the Georgian landscape - for their meaning and sound quality, and juxtaposed them without syntax."

ON THE DIGNITY OF THE MAN: Bernd Franke

A piece by Bernd Franke. A mix of modern music and renaissance elements. The work underlines the figure of the human being and the value of his dignity referring also to the speech by the Italian philosopher Pico della Mirandola.

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“TRIBUTE TO PHIL WOODS”

The Mai Soli Project 3 is a new project of the MSQ. Thanks to the collaboration with many international soloists, the quartet now proposes a new project with another international soloist, this time in the jazz panorama: MATTIA CIGALINI. The idea to unify these two different worlds came from both parties, the quartet and Cigalini. The intention was to create a tribute to the saxophonist PHIL WOODS, a unique personality in the saxophone world who became a legend.

PROGRAM

Phil Woods - Three Improvisations

Phil Woods - Sonata (1 mvt)

Charlie Parker - Ornithology

Cannonball Adderley - Julian

Gerry Mulligan - Rocker

Billy Joel - Just The Way You Are

Eddie Harris - Freedom Jazz Dance

Phil Woods - Stolen Moments



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The project is focused on a repertoire dedicated to the unusual ensemble of the saxophone quartet and the organ. It has a diverse programme of contemporary works which present different concepts: a travel through different styles and different composers with two instruments which are chronologically very distant and have two different paths of development in the history of music.

PROGRAM

Enjott Schneider - Crucifixus (20')

- Toccata
- Adagio
- Marcia Funebre

William Albright - Valley of Fire (4')

Paul Hindemith - Organ Sonata n.2 (12')

- Lebhaft
- Ruhig bewegt
- Fuge. Mäig bewegt, Heiter

Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa - 2 Madrigali

(elaborazione per 4 saxofoni di Salvatore Sciarrino)

- Itene Mieì Sospiri
- Tu m'uccidi o crudele

Gerard Beljon - Didgeridoo (10')

Barbara Thompson - 4 Mirages (21')

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MSQ AND ANTONELLA RUGGIERO

A sophisticated and divine singer of melodies which reflect her unique and unrepeatable voice: Antonella Ruggiero, one of the most important and famous Italian singers is the guest star of the "Mai Soli" project. Already at the beginning, the collaboration found a successful response from the audience. The repertoire consists of the singer's greatest and of other unreleased works. The selection of the repertoire, which varies from rock to classical music and the incredible variety of colours and styles define the base concept of the project. The original arrangement uses and valorises the sonority of the quartet. Additionally, the mix of the quartet and the voice is sometimes enriched by percussion instruments.

For information and program contact us!

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MSQ CONTEMPORARY PROJECT



This contemporary project with different styles is on the one hand centred on the most important original works for this ensemble and on the other hand on works dedicated to the quartet. The repertoire varies from the jazz influences of Franco Donatoni's Rasch, to the organized chaos of Xenakis, passing through the Austrian composer Neuwith with her work Ondate, and coming back to the Italian origin composers like Ivan Fedele and Bruno Mantovani. Beside these works, there are also some works by young emerging composers who collaborated with the quartet and dedicated their work to it like Maarten De Splenter with his Sax Suite and Alberto Schiavo with Reflexion Iranienne. This mix of different works and concepts unifies masterworks by famous composers and other works of emerging young composers, thus creating a diverse programme in the contemporaneity with the only goal to propose a rich and interesting programme and to play pieces of the contemporary time with their different styles.

PROGRAM

Franco Donatoni "Rash"

Ivan Fedele "Magic"

Iannis Xenakis "Xas"

Bruno Mantovani "Quatour"

Olga Neuwirth "Ondate"

John Cage Four

Maarten De Splenter "Sax Suite"

Alberto Schiavo "Réflexions iraniens"



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STRAPPATEMPO

Damiano Grandesso Soprano saxophone
Stefano Papa Alto saxophone
Massimiliano Girardi Tenor saxophone
Livia Ferrara Bariton saxophone

Giorgia Antonelli Voice
Titino Carrara Direction

The music of the Milano Saxophone Quartet united the wonderful voice of Giorgia Antonelli, takes the audience on an adventure which goal it is to re-establish the time. It seems like a small treasure hunt of sounds through the centuries: from the genius of Mozart to the music of Rossini, from the Gregorian chants to the rock of the rock band Queen.

Titino Carrara's production always recreates the scene in a mix of languages between actors, musicians and public.



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