

Biography – Nathan Henshaw

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. Performance highlights include:

- Solo live-to-air recitals on 2MBS FM
- Solo recitals at the 2013 Australasian Saxophone and Clarinet Conference (Sydney, Australia)
- Performance at the APRA Arts Music Awards (2013)
- Solo and quartet recitals 2012 World Saxophone Congress (St. Andrews, Scotland)
- 2011 Australasian Saxophone and Clarinet Festival (Melbourne, Australia)
- 2010 ISCM World Music
- Various performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra
- Manly Jazz Festival
- Soloist with the SCM Saxophone Orchestra (Glazunov Concerto)
- Solo concert tour of Hokkadate and Hokkaido (Japan)
- Sydney season of The Threepenny Opera (a co-production with Opera Victoria and Sydney Theatre Company)

Nathan's work as a freelance musician has provided the opportunity to work with a diverse range of renowned Australian and international performers and ensembles such as Tim Minchin, Kenny Rogers, Randy Newman, The Chaser, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Richard Gill, Eddie Perfect, Nigel Butterly, George Dreyfus, Claude Delangle, Rhonda Burchmore, 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 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.

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