

Plight of the Classical Saxophone

I play classical saxophone.

Yes I am a classical saxophonist.

It does, we do exist!

‘RANTS’

Ask someone to name a saxophonist and more often than not they will name a exponents of the instrument such as Parker, Coltrane, Rollins, Gordon, Lovano the list goes on. But can they name a classical saxophonist. Can you?

The saxophone is the leading exponent of Jazz and rightly so. Alongside the voice it is perhaps the most versatile and expressive instrument out there.



Did you notice that in this years BBC Young Musician competition there was not one but TWO saxophonists in the woodwind final? So things might finally be a changing.

And yet after some superb playing by these brilliant committed young musicians, the expert panel convenes and the “chair” proclaims...

“The saxophone in not blessed with a great repertoire”

A saxophonic community sighs, and shake their heads.

THIS PERCEPTION MUST CHANGE!

Our recital rep ranges from Villa-Lobos to Berio, and our escapades into the symphonic sees Ravel, Prokofiev, Vaughan Williams and MacMillian take up the torch. And our concerti, well, Bennett, Birtwistle, Turnage and Adams are advocates. Need I say more?

But this is not enough, composers please write for this expressive, agile and evocative instrument. More recognition is need to highlight and champion this fantastic instrument. So please get writing and spread the word.

And concertgoers, across the UK and the world there are extraordinary classical saxophonists such as Rob Buckland, Vincent David, Arno Bornkamp, James Houlik and Andy Scott, the list goes on, performing equally extraordinary music, so go look them up and discover an instrument of beauty, that deserves to be treated equally within the classical establishment.



John Adams conducts Tim McAllister performing the composers Saxophone Concerto

We deserve your respect!

Thank you.