



"I Hope Every Player in the World Gets the Chance to Try the EX!"

Nobuya Sugawa

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Nobuya Sugawa Plays the Yamaha EX

"When playing in front of a full symphony orchestra, my EX projects easily throughout the hall. But it also offers great control for delicate pianissimo nuances in recitals with piano. The EX was created by designers and performers working closely together, and it offers players the freedom to produce their own inner musical voice."

Nobuya Sugawa is one of the world's best sax soloists. His exciting performances have created a new popularity for the classical saxophone.



Nobuya Sugawa
North America Tour
November 2006



Program Note

Jimmy DORSEY (Arranged by Susumu KUSAKABE) / Oodles of Noodles (Alto)

James "Jimmy" Dorsey (1904 - 1957) was a saxophonist who flourished at the dawn of jazz, beginning in the 1920s. Known as a child prodigy and at the age of seven, he was already playing the slide trumpet and the cornet in his father's brass band in Pennsylvania. In 1933, he and his brother formed the famed "Dorsey Brothers Orchestra".

Dating from around the time that the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra was formed, this playful tune seems at home in a dance hall or a crowded jazz café and is almost always a crowd favorite.

Lars-Erik LARSSON / Saxophone Concerto Op. 14 (Alto)

Lars-Erik Larsson (1908 - 1986) studied composition at the Stockholm Conservatory with Ernst Ellberg in his early years. He continued his studies with Alban Berg in Vienna the following year, and thereafter, 1930-1931, with Fritz Reuter in Leipzig. This piece was composed after he left his mother country and furthered his studies. Larsson's inclination to the emerging and evolving neo-classical movement can be clearly heard throughout the concerto.

With the writing of the Saxophone Concerto, Larsson contributed significantly to the growth of the saxophone tradition in Sweden - a tradition which has moved on to other composers and performers, who have brought about international recognition and success.

Takashi YOSHIMATSU / Fuzzy Bird Sonata Op. 44 (Alto)

Takashi Yoshimatsu (1953 -) was born in Tokyo, Japan, and like Toru Takemitsu, the composer generally considered to be Japan's greatest in the western classical style, did not receive formal musical training while growing up. He left the faculty of technology of Keio University in 1972, and joined an amateur band as a keyboard player, emulating the music of Pink Floyd. He became interested in the jazz and progressive rock scenes, particularly in the possibilities being explored through electronic music.

Commissioned by Sugawa and was completed in 1999, Fuzzy Bird Sonata consists of three movements. The first movement, "Run, Bird", features an intimate interplay between saxophone and piano. In the second movement, "Sing, Bird", a haunting Largo section sends the saxophone soaring over the delicate piano drone. Containing free improvisation sections, the third movement requires the two performers to pay careful attention to each other and allows for melodic invention rarely seen in contemporary saxophone literature. (Publisher: Billaudot)

Piet SWERTS / Dance of Uzume - Dedicated to Nobuya SUGAWA (Alto)

Piet SWERTS (1960 -) was the first Belgian grand-prix winner at the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition in Composition and enjoys an international career.

This work was commissioned by Sugawa in June 2004. Upon its completion, Sugawa immediately sent the following note to the composer:

"The middle part with a rich melodious passage reminds me of the dance of Uzume that can be very expressive... the middle and the syllables that lead to it illustrate overlapping images of Uzume's dance getting more furious and the uproar of eight-million surprised Kami breaking into laughter and excitement. Towards the end of the middle part, I can visualize that the cave, Ama-no-Iwato, was finally opened and the sun goddess Amaterasu-ob-mikami reappeared to cast in the sunlight."

Luciano BERIO / Sequenza VIIb (Soprano)

"Sequenza", a masterpiece by the Italian composer Luciano Berio (1925 - 2003), was written either for solo instrument or solo voice. Luciano Berio wrote his Sequenzas between 1958 and 2002 with the talents of particular performers in mind. By necessity, these performers were some of modern music's elite artists. Each Sequenza is a demonstration of nearly superhuman virtuosity and extended playing techniques - an attempt to show what each musician and each instrument is capable of, within the framework of the 20th-century avant garde.

Philip SPARKE / Pantomime - Originally for Euphonium (Tenor)

Philip SPARKE (1951 -) was born in London and studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music. It was at the College that his interest in bands arose. A close association with banding in Japan led to a commission from the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra and opened the door worldwide to his wind band music. In 2005, Sparke won the National Band Association/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest.

Pantomime was written in 1951 for Nicholas Childs, a famed English euphonium player. Although the tenor saxophone may not be quite as physically demanding as the euphonium, this piece is still quite challenging and is one of Sugawa's favorite solos to perform.

Profile



Nobuya SUGAWA

One of Japan's most distinguished saxophonists, Nobuya Sugawa studied at the Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music. Sugawa makes about 100 recital and concert appearances a year and he has recorded more than 20 CDs, including the highly acclaimed (Takashi Yoshimatsu) Saxophone Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic (CHANDOS) and MADE IN JAPAN (Toshiba-EMI), featuring Japanese contemporary works.

He has worked with leading Japanese orchestras, The Philharmonia, BBC Philharmonic, Eastman Wind Ensemble, Orchestra d'Harmonie de la Garde Republicaine, Aargauer Symphonie Orchester (Switzerland) and Württembergische Philharmonie (Germany). Sugawa's recent tours include stints with jazz bassist Ron Carter and guitarist Martin Taylor. In 2004, he performed at Suntory Hall together with the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, bringing the audience to their feet.

Sugawa has also presented master classes at colleges throughout Japan, Europe and the North America. His teaching materials are currently published by De Haske Publications BV in the Netherlands are sold around the world.

Nobuya plays Yamaha Custom EX Saxophones.

For more information:
www.sugawasax.com
www.yamaha.com/band



Midori NAGAHARA

Born in Saitama, Japan, Nagahara graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music with top honors. Nagahara is the grand prize winner of the 23rd Kawai Music Competition, the 3rd prize winner at the 7th Japan Mozart competition and she took home the highest prize at the 66th Japan Music Competition.

She has performed with Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Central Aichi Symphony Orchestra and many other fine orchestras throughout Japan.

Nobuya SUGAWA Presents



DANCE OF UZUME



• Piet Swerts

Dance of Uzume is a concertino that is based on a Japanese myth. Out of anger toward her brother Susanowa (the storm god), Amaterasu (the sun goddess) hides in a cave. The goddess of joy, Uzume, succeeds in luring the sun goddess out of the cave by dancing wildly. The joy and laughter from the other gods as they watch Uzume arouses Amaterasu's curiosity and with her appearance, the light on Earth returns. This fantastic new original work will provide a much needed addition to the advanced

repertoire for saxophone and piano. It also comes with a demo CD played by the famous Japanese saxophonist Nobuya Sugawa showing you exactly how it should be performed.

RECOMMENDED REPERTOIRE FOR SAXOPHONE



All the pieces in this book have been selected from the *Méthode Complète* by H. Klosé. Practically every saxophonist with a classical education comes across these pieces during his or her studies. Over the years, their value has been proven from a musical as well as a technical perspective. However, this music never had a piano accompaniment - which is of vital importance for musical development and for concert performances. In this new edition a piano part has been written by the well-known

composer Roland Kern. On the CD you will hear a performance of the complete piece followed by a play-along piano accompaniment for use if you do not have a pianist to accompany you.

PERFECTION STUDIES FOR SAXOPHONE



The title *Perfection Studies* refers to the pursuit of playing the saxophone perfectly. Therefore, this book is meant for saxophonists who have already reached a fairly advanced standard. The pieces have been written especially for this book by top composers from all over the world including Jan Van der Roost, Jacob de Haan, Martin Ellerby and Otto M. Schwarz. Nearly all aspects of saxophone playing are addressed, including melodic interpretation, tone quality, dynamics and vibrato. The rich range of colours

and the melodic character of the studies also make them very suitable for playing at exams or recitals. A demo CD is included with performances by Nobuya Sugawa to give you an idea of how the studies should be played.

RECITAL ALBUM



Original Repertoire for Alto Saxophone

Nobuya Sugawa presents nine new pieces with piano accompaniment that are perfectly suitable for saxophonists with three to four years experience. The pieces have been written especially for this book by top composers from all over the world including, Martin Ellerby, Ferrer Ferran, Otto M. Schwarz and Philip Sparke. The piano parts are suitable for advanced pianists as well as piano students. That makes this *Recital Album* an instructive collection for both the saxophone player and

the piano player. On the CD, Nobuya Sugawa plays the pieces first. The piano accompaniment, played on a grand piano, follows. However, playing together with a live pianist - where musical interaction develops - is of course even more enlightening.

PERFORMANCE STUDIES



The title *Performance Studies* tells you exactly why these pieces have been composed - to improve your complete performance while learning the saxophone. The pieces are meant for saxophone players who have been playing for a couple of years, but they will also be useful for experienced player, helping bring perfection to any performance. The pieces have been written exclusively for this book and with their colourful and melodic character they're not only very useful for practising saxophone

techniques but also make perfect pieces for exams or concerts. A demo CD is also included with this book with the famous Japanese sax player Nobuya Sugawa performing each study.

NEW CONCERT STUDIES



Saxophone study material that is aimed at musical expression and sound, instead of virtuosity is always in short supply. Most existing study books offer too little opportunity to apply the learned technique for its actual purpose - making music. These New Concert Studies meet the demand for teaching the art of making music. The book contains fifteen studies that put emphasis on interpretation and performance. The pieces have been written by a number of leading composers and their various

approaches make practising these studies a good way to widen your musical horizons. The books comes with a demo CD featuring Nobuya Sugawa showing exactly how it should be done.