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Dr. Benjamin Sorrell **saxophone**

Hailed as having, “a gorgeous sound” by conductor Benjamin Zander, saxophonist Dr. Benjamin Sorrell has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and in orchestras throughout Western Europe and across the United States. As performer he has earned a number of honors including winning the New England Conservatory (NEC) Concerto Competition performing Ingolf Dahl’s Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Orchestra, leading a quartet to win the NEC Honors competition and a solo performance in Jordan Hall, Boston, MA, as well as being invited to perform William Bolcom’s Concerto Grosso with the University of Southern California Wind Ensemble.

Repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary, Benjamin is a strong proponent of the music of our time. These interests have led to performances at Helmut List Halle, Graz, Austria, and The Players Theatre and John Zorn’s The Stone in New York City, and to his invitation to the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Pendulum New Music Series to premiere a new work for saxophone and piano by Anthony Green that was dedicated to Lee Hyla, the guest of honor for the evening. As an orchestral musician Benjamin has had the opportunity to work under the batons of Hugh Wolff, Donald Palma, Carl St. Clair, Benjamin Zander, Jung-Ho Pak, Gunther Schuller, Lucas Vis, and Beat Furrer.

Benjamin has participated in various music festivals including, International Music Institute Darmstadt (Germany), Habanera Academy (France), European Saxophone University (France), Impuls Ensemble Academy for Contemporary Music (Austria), Brevard Music Center (Brevard, NC), and the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (Boston, MA). His research interests lie in the discovery and development of a universal method of musical analysis that can bridge 20th/21st century music to that of the common practice period, he is currently preparing for publication an analysis of Berio Sequenza IX for contralto saxophone.

Currently, Benjamin is the Assistant Director of Orchestras at Sinai Akiba Academy, maintains a studio of private saxophone students throughout Los Angeles County, and is the saxophone instructor at HYPERIUMconservatory. In the past he was part of a New England Conservatory Community Outreach saxophone quartet for two years, and continued that outreach as an Honors Ensemble performing in schools, at after-school programs, retirement homes, and assisted living communities in underprivileged neighborhoods throughout Boston.

Benjamin has been heard playing on National Public Radio’s Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me! and plays Alto, Tenor and Baritone saxophones on Ben Ranson’s debut CD, Eighteen Wheels of Pain.

Dr. Sorrell received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music studying with Los Angeles Philharmonic saxophonist, James Rötter, and holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree, both with Honors, from New England Conservatory of Music where he studied with Kenneth Radnofsky. Additional studies and/or masterclasses with Claude Delangle, Marcus Weiss, Vincent David, Jean-Denis Michat, Arno Bornkamp, Jean-Michel Goury, Habanera Quartet, and Prism Quartet.