



Otis Murphy

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Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Reviews**
- **Discography**

Otis Murphy- BIOGRAPHY

Otis Murphy joined the faculty of the **Indiana University Jacobs School of Music** at the age of 28, becoming one of the youngest faculty members in its history, and where he is currently Associate Professor of Music. He is in great demand as an international soloist and clinician, having gained wide recognition on four continents: North America (United States and Canada), Europe (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), Asia (Japan, Singapore and Taiwan), and Australia, appearing with orchestras, bands, and chamber groups, and at special events, such as festivals, symposiums, and World Saxophone Congresses.

Mr. Murphy has received numerous awards including prizes in Belgium's **Adolphe Sax International Saxophone Competition**, the **Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition in France**, and the **Heida Hermanns International Woodwind Competition in the United States**. His students also have won many awards and earned positions as teachers, soloists, chamber musicians, and members of top U.S. military bands. Mr. Murphy has released some fifteen recordings including four solo compact discs, and his latest solo release, **Summertime**, has received critical acclaim. In addition, he has appeared in publications that include **Saxophone Journal** in the United States, **Vandoren Magazine** in France, Japan's **Band Journal**, **Pipers** and **The Sax** magazines, **Clarinet and Saxophone Society Journal** in the United Kingdom, and **Dolomiten Magazin** in Italy.

Mr. Murphy has enjoyed a close relationship with Japan, in particular, having been invited annually since 2001 to present master classes and concerts and having been a member of the artist/faculty of the **Hamamatsu International Wind Instrument Academy** since 2005. Mr. Murphy was awarded the 2008 **S & R Foundation's Washington Award** and its special **Ambassador Award (which the S & R Foundation created especially for Mr. Murphy)** in recognition of his contributions to Japanese and American understanding. He has appeared in Isaac Stern Concert Hall and Tokyo's Opera City Hall, and his 2009 Japan tour included performances in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Sendai and Toyama, and a DVD was produced from their sold-out concert in Tokyo's Casals Hall. In 2011, Mr. Murphy was a guest professor at the **Musashino Academy of Music** in Tokyo and performed as a guest soloist with the Musashino Academy Wind Ensemble at the Japan Band Clinic.

Mr. Murphy holds Doctor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, graduating with the Performer's Certificate, the highest honor given to a performer at this institution; and the Bachelor of Music Education degree, graduating Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Georgia. In addition, he pursued advanced studies in France under a Fulbright Fellowship for foreign study at the Conservatoire National Régional de Musique in Cergy-Pontoise, earning the Prix de Perfectionnement by a unanimous decision of the jury. His saxophone teachers include Jean-Yves Fourmeau, Eugene Rousseau, and Kenneth Fischer.

Otis Murphy is a **Yamaha Performing Artist** and a **Vandoren Performing Artist**, and he is the soprano saxophonist in **Solaire Quartet**. Otis resides in Bloomington, Indiana with his wife, Haruko, and their five children.

Otis Murphy-Reviews

Murphy played with the sweetest tone imaginable in the opening perpetual-motion movement, and then practically blew the roof off in the concluding rumba.
Indianapolis Star

Murphy's playing is bright, alert, and at times aggressively loud, but always with a polish and sensitivity that make the most of the music.
Chicago Tribune

Otis Murphy, whose playing personifies the work's richness of musical conversation and conversion, it seemed the evening had simply exploded beyond belief.
NUVO

Soloist Otis Murphy was a highly skilled player, with technical flourishes and mellow melodic tones that provided a joyful listening experience. . . . As an encore, Murphy and the FSO played an arrangement of "What a Wonderful World." His lyrical and jazzy sound in this piece was a real highlight of the evening.
Flint Journal

American saxophone player Otis Murphy was introduced as the "eighth wonder of the world," and his recital had all the right ingredients to keep his audience spellbound.
The Western Australian Today (Australia)

Mr. Murphy is obsessed with sound; and his obsession does not stop at having simply a pretty tone, but he pursues sadness, joyfulness, and even occasional harshness, always creating the sound based on the musical expression.
The Sax (Japan)

What a smooth and creamy sound he makes!
Brass Tribe (Japan)

(Murphy) played his program with the calm assurance of those who know themselves to be the best. His command...was of the utmost beauty.
Vers L'Avenir (Belgium)

Murphy drew not only sultry beauty from the instrument but showcase urgency. His playing was marked by clarity of enunciation (and) a clean precision of technique.
Herald Times

So much music, so much life poured from the mouth of his horn. The ears told the mind what the eyes could not believe. Alone, he commanded the strength of a five hundred-piece orchestra. . . . The crowd found that the only way to express the emotional overflow Mr. Murphy had conjured up was to clap and plead for more.
Fresno City College Rampage

Otis Murphy is certainly a hallmark of all the artistry and craftsmanship involved in saxophone performance. He has a bright and rich sound that at times is pure emotion singing from the artist's very essence. His technique is amazing and equally coordinated. Notes fly to the ears effortlessly and allow the listener to become totally involved in the aesthetics of the performance. His use of vibrato is the pinnacle of taste as it varies in depth and intensity to suit the absolute needs of the music. The artist is very capable of extremely tender and sensitive playing and can easily switch gears to be as aggressive as the dictates of the composition.
Saxophone Journal

This CD promised a Fantasy and it has delivered 110% on that promise. The duo of Murphy and Murphy, simply put, establishes new hallmarks for those yet to arrive and a higher target for all others to strive for. Otis and Haruko Murphy have made the music on this Fantasy CD come alive and have created fantasies that are as real as music. The performance is so compelling that the listener will soar with the music making it real, and not just a fantasy.
Paul Wagner, Saxophone Journal

Otis Murphy's tone is superb, warm, supple, and intense. His technique is precise and rapid. He has the ability to phrase the music so that it takes on a life of its own, making the music weave into musical stories that enliven the listener's imagination."
Paul Wagner, Saxophone Journal

Otis Murphy is an exceptional artist, possessing an extraordinary musical sense combined with a stunning technique. Additionally, he has a personality appreciated by everyone.
Jean-Yves Fourmeau, International Saxophone Soloist (France)

From the first time I heard Otis Murphy perform, I was fascinated by his level of performance. His superior technique, extremely sophisticated musicality, and rich sensitivity will remain vivid in my memory.

Yoshiyuki Hattori, International Saxophonist Soloist (Japan)

You are one of the finest saxophonists that have come along in a long time and I love your playing. You have a brilliant career ahead of you!!! Keep doing exactly what you have been . . . it is outstanding. . . . Again, I truly mean you are a wonderful player and I am so happy to see someone like yourself come along in the saxophone world.

Dale Underwood, Saxophone Soloist with the United States Navy Band

Your performance . . . was beautiful, with a quite magical sound.

Richard Ingham, Clarinet and Saxophone Society of Great Britain

To say they were blown away would be an understatement. The band and the audience were astounded by your musicianship. . . . It was memorable and certainly a solo performance that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Ray Cramer, Emeritus Director of Bands, Indiana University

Your performance was stunning, and your recital was wonderful and inspiring to musicians and non-musicians alike.

Ralph M. Gambone, Captain, U. S. Navy Band

His degree of artistry left the entire convention amazed and who will ever forget the beautiful sound and pitch of his incredible altissimo register?

Alfred Watkins, Director of Bands, Lassiter High School, Georgia

Your performance of the Sonata is first rate, a superb technical and musical accomplishment. . . . It was a joy to listen knowing that I could trust what you were doing! I am especially drawn to the second movement which is really hard to pull off. Your rendition gave me chills and tears.

David Maslanka, Composer

I listened carefully to your CD. It is simply remarkable.

It's an honor to be played by you. Sincerely thank you . . . Bravo.

André Wagnein, Composer

A beautiful CD, my warmest congratulations and also thanks for your inclusion of my Suite Rhapsodica, performed with wonderful perfection, virtuosity, and sound!

Jindřich Feld, Composer

Otis Murphy-Discography

SELECTED SOLO RECORDINGS

SUMMERTIME

Performers: Otis Murphy, saxophones; Haruko Murphy, piano; Masato Kumoi
Saxophone Quartet
Produced by: Saxophone Classics, 2011

OTIS MURPHY & THE MASATO KUMOI SAXOPHONE QUARTET—JAPAN TOUR 2009 DVD

Performers: Otis Murphy, saxophones; Haruko Murphy, piano; Masato Kumoi
Saxophone Quartet
Produced by: Brain Co. (Japan), 2010

THE COLLECTION OF CONCERTOS (Claude Smith Fantasia for Alto Saxophone and Band)

Performers: Otis Murphy, alto saxophone; Yamaha Symphonic Band; Hiroyuki Kayo,
conductor
Produced by: CAFUA (Japan), 2010

SONG

Performers: Otis Murphy, alto saxophone; Indiana University Wind Ensemble;
Stephen Pratt & Ray Cramer, conductors
Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2009

LIVING WITH THE CLASSICS, VOLUME 2 (Camille Saint-Saëns The Swan)

Performers: Collection of Various Artists
Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2008

AMERICA'S MILLENNIUM TRIBUTE TO ADOLPHE SAX, VOLUME X: FEATURING OTIS MURPHY

Performers: Collection of Saxophone Artists
Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2006

FANTASY

Performers: Otis Murphy, alto saxophone; Haruko Murphy, piano
Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2005

MEMORIES OF DINANT

Performers: Otis Murphy, alto saxophone; Haruko Murphy, piano
Produced by: RIAX, 1999

SELECTED CHAMBER ENSEMBLE RECORDINGS

INTERSECTIONS (Donald Freund Dervish Saxophone Quartet)

Performers: Thomas Walsh, saxophones; Luke Gillespie, piano; Indiana Saxophone Quartet – Tom Walsh, Otis Murphy, Scotty Stepp, Adam McCord

Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2010

ZZYX RD (Ida Gotkovsky Quartet for Saxophones)

Performers: Zzyzx Quartet; Otis Murphy, alto saxophone

Produced by: Teal Creek Music, 2010

SKYSCRAPINGS: THE SAXOPHONE MUSIC OF DONALD FREUND (Donald Freund EDGE SAXOPHONE QUARTET)

Performers: Collection of Saxophone Artists; Indiana Saxophone Quartet – Otis Murphy, Tom

Walsh, Michael Duke, Karl Hartmann

Produced by: Arizona University Recordings, 2007

