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Timothy McAllister, Saxophonist



Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Critical Acclaim**
- **Discography**

Biography

Recognized for his “flamboyant” solos (Los Angeles Times), “evocative and bravura playing” (Chicago Classical Review), “virtuoso artistry” (The Saxophone Symposium), “impeccable musicianship” (American Record Guide), “warmth and agility” (The Sacramento Bee) and “beautifully rounded tone” (The Ann Arbor News), Timothy McAllister is one of America's leading concert saxophone performers. His solo, orchestral, and chamber music recordings appear on the Naxos, Albany, Summit, Equilibrium, Centaur, G.I.A. Publications, New Focus, AUR, New Dynamic, and innova labels. He has been featured multiple times on National Public Radio's "Performance Today", Dutch National Radio, BBC, Chamber Music Minnesota's televised "Music da Camera" series, WQXR-NYC, WNYC's "Soundcheck" hosted by Jonathan Schaefer, and various PBS affiliates throughout the U.S. His work is highlighted in the Deutsche Grammophon DVD release of John Adams' CITY NOIR, filmed as part of Gustavo Dudamel's Inaugural Concert as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

McAllister has been a recent soloist with the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, Texas Festival Orchestra at Round Top, Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Royal Band of the Belgian Air Force, United States Navy Band, Dallas Wind Symphony, South Carolina Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Ocean City Pops (NJ), Augusta Symphony, Nashville Symphony, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project among others. In addition, he has performed as saxophonist in the wind sections of the Toronto Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Tucson Symphony, New World Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Dogs of Desire Chamber Orchestra of the Albany Symphony, and Opera Colorado/Colorado Symphony Orchestra. His recent work with the Los Angeles Philharmonic included performances in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York City's Lincoln Center. He appears frequently on chamber music series nationwide with the PRISM Quartet, including repeat performances each season in venues such as New York City's Merkin Hall, Whitney Museum, Le Poisson Rouge, Symphony Space, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall; and Philadelphia's Museum of Art, Trinity Center, World Café Live, PNC Bank/Presser Recital Hall at the Settlement School, and the Painted Bride Arts Center. Prior to joining PRISM, he was awarded the coveted Grand Prize from the 2001 Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition with the Ninth Circle Saxophone Quartet, the first group of it's kind to receive this honor.

McAllister serves as Associate Professor of Saxophone at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute School of Music. In addition, he spends his summers as distinguished faculty of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Michigan. He previously held professorships at The Crane School of Music at the State University of New York-Potsdam and the University of Arizona School of Music in Tucson, and he has been a visiting artist at the University of Michigan School of Music and the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique of Paris among many others.

Credited with over 100 premieres of new works by eminent and emerging composers worldwide, he holds the prestigious Albert A. Stanley Medal, Earl V. Moore Award, and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan where he studied saxophone with Donald Sinta and conducting with H. Robert Reynolds. He has also been honored with the Paul C. Boylan Distinguished Alumni Award from the Michigan School of Music Alumni Society for his contributions to the field of music.

Critical Acclaim

“...a variety of great works offered here, by talented and innovative composers, and played by a superbly skilled team of soloists...an amazing achievement for McAllister.”

-Ronald Grames FANFARE Magazine

“The [Cabrillo Festival Opening] concert's highlight concluded its first half: Jennifer Higdon's Soprano Sax Concerto...and it was superbly realized by soloist Timothy McAllister. The single-movement concerto consisted of long stretches of ever-evolving melisma, with phrases cleverly imitated by other solo instruments in a way that seemed to weave a tapestry to the glory of melody. This work is a significant testament to beauty.”

-Jeff Dunn San Francisco Classical Voice

“...the music is dramatic and colorful, requiring all sorts of novel saxophone sounds...high level of musicality in the playing...the musicianship of Duo Nuova is impeccable. McAllister's tone is creamy, and his fingering and tonguing are impressive.”

-Stephen Max American Record Guide

“...McAllister's flexibility of sound, judicious use of vibrato, ease of altissimo, and tonal techniques make it possible to listen without distraction.”

-Debra McKim The Saxophone Symposium

“John Adams said he wouldn't wish [that alto saxophone solo] on anyone, but Timothy McAllister dispatching it with wonderful grace on this world premiere evening.”

-Fred Child Commentary from American Public Media/Performance Today's coverage of Gustavo Dudamel's Inaugural Concert with the LA Phil

“Mr. McAllister 'has a singing legato matched with excellent and fluent technique...a superior performer.’”

-Philip Farkas Legendary Hornist, Former Principal Horn, Chicago Symphony

“The LA Phil played superbly, with special kudos to saxophonist Timothy McAllister...”

-Robert D. Thomas Music Critic, Pasadena Star-News

“Tim McAllister is a stunning saxophonist...he has played and recorded two of my saxophone works, and I can't imagine them being played any better by anyone.”

-William Bolcom Pulitzer Prize in Composition 1988

“...McAllister performed solos crucial to the work's flavor with brashness that never overpowered a beautifully rounded tone.”

-Michael Rodman The Ann Arbor News

“Your record [SCENA] is exceptional and the interpretation of Steady Study on the Boogie is maybe the best I have ever heard...Thank you for playing and teaching my music so brilliantly!”

-Christian Lauba Award-winning French composer

“[McAllister] gave a remarkable performance of my Concerto, unmatched by others.”

-Ross Lee Finney

“[City Noir's] second movement, “The Song Is for You,” is softer and, on the surface, sweeter than the first, and jazzy. I heard hints of Gershwin in the horns after a flamboyant saxophone solo played by Timothy McAllister.”

-Mark Swed Los Angeles Times

“McAllister precisely conveyed the mood of every stylistic alley into which Bolcom peered. His saxophone delivered dialogue, as well as notes, as he brought his own experiences to Bolcom’s hodgepodge of a musical canvas...the arrangement of John Williams' Catch Me If You Can score gives plenty of opportunity to display his technical wizardry and dynamic control.”

-Gregory Sullivan Isaacs Critic, Theater Jones: Arts News in North Texas

“Higdon's Soprano Sax Concerto began and ended in a pastoral mood (a la Copland's Clarinet Concerto) and featured smooth, sweet and virtuosic playing by Timothy McAllister.”

-Scott MacClelland Metro Santa Cruz

“Friday evening, Jennifer Higdon's lyrical Soprano Sax Concerto displayed the classical capabilities of the instrument and the musical talents of soloist Timothy McAllister. The music concentrates on song-like lines and emotional sensitivity rather than virtuosic fireworks, though McAllister's gleaming tone and supple runs enhanced this fine work.”

-Phyllis Rosenblum The Santa Cruz Sentinel

“...a contrasting sense of solemnity followed...yet moving...”

-Jeremy Eichler The New York Times

“a mature, polished performer...whose dynamic and color contrasts enhance his ability to communicate - Bravo!”

-Leone Buyse Former Associate Principal Flute, Boston Symphony Orchestra

“I have great admiration for your great talent...I have been very impressed by your masterful technique, by the simplicity of your playing, by your musical intelligence, by the perfect presentation...”

-Jean-Marie Londeix Legendary Saxophonist, Conservatoire National de Bourdeaux

“hypnotically swirling lines and propulsive rhythms...brilliantly performed by all concerned and recorded with life-like fidelity.”

-R. Schulslaper FANFARE Magazine

“Timothy McAllister is both an agile soloist, easily surmounting any technical hurdles, and an expressive, communicative musician able to plumb the depths or scale the heights of these contemporary composers’ inspirations. His fellow musicians are equally accomplished; these renditions are finely honed collaborations between talented peers.”

-R. Schulslaper FANFARE Magazine

“Top Classical Saxophone Recordings - Timothy McAllister (Scena and Visions)”

-Mark Stryker Detroit Free Press, October 2000

“Mead’s melodies are angular and supple, and McAllister renders them with a lyrical modern touch. Steady Study on the Boogie...is a fascinating piece, and McAllister plays it beautifully.”

-Steve Hicken American Record Guide - Review of Scena

“brilliant solos were in abundance, especially by Timothy McAllister...”

-Janos Gereben San Francisco Classical Voice

“McAllister's evocative renditions and virtuoso artistry throughout the CD [SCENA] enables the music, as well as the saxophone, to transcend the potential pitfalls inherent in an ambitious project of this nature and allow the listener to be embraced by the musical challenges presented for both performer and listener...an excellent CD in both performance and composition of music.”

-Frank Bongiorno The Saxophone Symposium

“In Jennifer Higdon’s 2007 Soprano Saxophone Concerto, Tim McAllister was equally amazing. He produced a clearly focused sound in all registers — and some were very extreme. Introspective, complex chords at the opening were quite satisfying and led to lengthy, florid solo passages and clever interchanges with orchestral solos...Higdon’s formal organization also is quite free, but her single-movement concept kept musical ideas fairly compact. McAllister’s artistry helped.”

-Gregory Barnes The State, Columbia, South Carolina

“Chambers! Come Down Heavy! ...a tour de force that tested the upper sonic limits in wild and woolly playing by Timothy McAllister on alto sax...”

-John Fleming St. Petersburg Times

“No doubt this disc will be much studied and admired by saxophonists and certainly deserves hearing among a still wider audience...remarkably good and thought provoking”

-Robert McColley Fanfare Magazine - Review of Visions

“[Glint] is a varied anthology of contemporary pieces...tangy, oxygen rich and kaleidoscopic.”

-Rob Barnett MusicWeb-International (UK)

“Timothy McAllister gave intense, intelligent performances...mournful [and] exuberant...”

-Bruce Hodges S&H International Concert Review - MusicWeb (UK)

“...jaw-dropping technical display...The always incredible Robert Spring is joined by the equally amazing saxophonist, Timothy McAllister, a well-known master of his instrument.”

-Daniel Coombs Audiophile Audition

“It was Higdon's concerto that offered the most sublime musical moments on the program...her saxophone concerto is an extremely lyrical piece whose ideas are clear and free of musical meandering...The work was played with warmth and agility by saxophonist Timothy McAllister, and Higdon smartly capitalized on the subtle power of the soprano sax as counterpoint to a small orchestra. What resulted was a tasty balance, with an almost pastoral feel to the work. In the realm of contemporary music, finding a jewel amid the programmed mix is a rare music moment. And this concert delivered it with Higdon's concerto.”

-Edward Oriz The Sacramento Bee

“The LA Philharmonic played beautifully throughout the performance (indeed, through the entire evening), with notable solo work from Timothy McAllister on saxophone...”

-Robert D. Thomas Music Critic, Pasadena Star-News

“Timothy McAllister is one of the best soprano players I have ever heard. The way he performs my Garden of Love, with such ease, even in the high registers, is simply stunning: a breathtaking polished tone, combined with brilliant singing vibrato, and this typical American swing, what more could a composer want...Chapeau!”

-JacobTV (aka Jacob ter Veldhuis) Celebrated Dutch Avant-Pop composer

“...breathtaking and spectacular...a revolution displayed in the hands of an artist...”

-Donald Sinta Earl V. Moore Distinguished Professor of Saxophone, The University of Michigan

“Dudamel led a bracing, propulsive performance with instrumental lines clear even in Adams' most riotous contrapuntal moments. The L.A. Phil members covered themselves in glory with outstanding contributions by trumpeter Donald Green, trombonist James Miller and, especially, Timothy McAllister's evocative and bravura alto sax playing.”

-Lawrence A. Johnson The Classical Review

“One of America's bright young stars in teaching and in performing...exceptionally gifted.”

-Michael Segell Author and Editor, New York Daily News

Discography

ORCHESTRAL

DG Concerts: John Adams City Noir

Ensemble(s): Los Angeles Philharmonic

Re-live the excitement of the World Premiere of John Adams' darkly atmospheric City Noir, the final panel of his southern California triptych. DG Concerts presents the live concert broadcast recording available directly on iTunes.

Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel
Produced By: Deutsche Grammophon
Release Date: May 11, 2010

Gustavo Dudamel: The Inaugural Concert

Ensemble(s): Los Angeles Philharmonic

The new DVD featuring the Inaugural Concert of Gustavo Dudamel's tenure as Music Director of the LA Philharmonic. Timothy McAllister is featured throughout as saxophonist in John Adams' monumental new work, CITY NOIR.

Conductor: Gustavo Dudamel
Produced By: Deutsche Grammophon
Release Date: December 15, 2009
Catalog Number: DVD-VIDEO NTSC 000440 073 4531 3

PRISM QUARTET: CONCERTOS FOR SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet; Boston Modern Orchestra Project

PRISM presents World Premiere recordings of William Bolcom's Concerto Grosso and Steven Mackey's Animal, Vegetable, Mineral with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Conductor: Gil Rose
Produced By: Innova Recordings
Release Date: March 17, 2009
Catalog Number: 731

NIXON IN CHINA

Ensemble(s): Colorado Symphony, Opera Colorado

Conductor: Marin Alsop
Produced By: NAXOS
Release Date: October 27, 2009
Catalog Number: 8669022-24

Jerome Moross: Orchestral Works

Ensemble(s): Hot Springs Festival Orchestra

Conductor: Richard Rosenberg
Produced By: NAXOS
Release Date: November 01, 2002
Catalog Number: 8.559086

SOLO

GLINT

Performer(s) Timothy McAllister, Saxophones Robert Spring, Clarinet Lucia Unrau, Piano

Exciting new works for solo saxophone, saxophone and piano, and electronics by award-winning composers Kati Agocs, Daniel Asia, Caleb Burhans, Roshanne Etezady, Philippe Hurel, Kristin Kuster, Peter Terry, and Gregory Wanamaker. Heralded as "an amazing achievement" (Fanfare, Nov/Dec. 2010).

Produced By: Innova Recordings
Release Date: June 29, 2010
Catalog Number: innova764

TOWERS OF POWER

Timothy McAllister, saxophones
The University of Arizona Wind Ensemble
World Premiere recording of Daniel McCarthy's Chamber Symphony No. 4 for Saxophones and Winds. Other works include Anthony Plog's Flute Concerto (Brian Luce, flute) and Philip Glass' Concerto for Two Timpani, featuring Jonathan Haas and Gary Cook.

Conductor: Gregg Hanson
Produced By: Albany Records
Release Date: April 01, 2009
Catalog Number: TROY1108

America's Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax, Volume XIII

Featuring Tim McAllister as Volume 13's Headline Artist in his new recording of Philippe Hurel's virtuosic spectral work, OPCIT (1984) for solo tenor saxophone.

Produced By: Arizona University Recordings
Release Date: February 07, 2008
Catalog Number: AURCD 3130

IN TRANSIT

Timothy McAllister, saxophones
Kathryn Goodson, piano

This exciting album contains American masterworks by Milton Babbitt and William Albright and World Premiere recordings of new compositions by award-winning composers Roshanne Etezady, Gregory Wanamaker, and Mischa Zupko.

Produced By: Innova Recordings
Release Date: April 11, 2006
Catalog Number: 652

toys in the attic: Electroacoustic Music from UMKC iMPACT Center

Timothy McAllister performs Timothy Place's Dandelions for alto saxophone and live computer processing.

Produced By: Centaur Records, Inc.
Release Date: January 01, 2003
Catalog Number: CRC 2605

SCENA

Music of Elliott Carter, Andrew Mead, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Benjamin Broening, Paul Steinberg, and Christian Lauba

Produced By: Equilibrium Records, Inc.
Release Date: July 18, 2000
Catalog Number: CD32

America's Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax, Volume V

Featuring Pulitzer Prize winning composer William Bolcom's CONCERT SUITE for Saxophone and Band. The Crane Wind Ensemble, Timothy Topolewski, conductor.

Produced By: Arizona University Recordings
Release Date: July 01, 2000
Catalog Number: AUR 3113

VISIONS: DUO NUOVA

Duo Nuova
Timothy McAllister, saxophones
Kevin Class, piano

This premiere disc by Duo Nuova contains world-premiere recordings of Rodney Rogers' Lessons of the Sky for Soprano Saxophone and Piano, and Howard Harrison's arrangement of Prokofiev's Visions Fugitives. Also featured are William Bolcom's Lilith, John Anthony Lennon's Distances Within Me, and transcriptions of works by Ravel and Platti.

Produced By: Centaur Records, Inc.
Release Date: August 01, 1996
Catalog Number: CRC 2280

ENSEMBLE

David Laganella: The Calls of Gravity

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet

PRISM Quartet performs David Laganella's Leafless Trees (2010). Other works performed by pianist Marilyn Nonken and Ensemble CMN.

Produced By: New Focus Recordings
Release Date: December 01, 2010

Martin Bresnick: Every Thing Must Go

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet

Most of the music on this recording honors artists whose works are going or have gone. The compositions celebrate the work of departed masters Yehuda Amichai, György Ligeti, Johannes Brahms and Willie Dixon (among others) and the title honors the last album recorded by Walter Becker and Donald Fagin of Steely Dan. The distinguished American composer Martin Bresnick's compositions are performed throughout the world and he is the recipient of many prizes and commissions including The Rome Prize, The Berlin Prize and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among many others.

Produced By: Albany Records

Release Date: May 01, 2010

ANTIPHONY: PRISM Quartet and Music From China

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet; Music From China

East meets West in this stunning new collaboration between the PRISM Quartet and the acclaimed ensemble, Music From China, which specializes in contemporary and traditional works for ancient Chinese instruments. The album includes world premiere recordings of works by Chen Yi, Zhou Long, Wang Gouwei, Lei Liang, Ming-Shiu Yen, and Tan Dun.

Release Date: June 15, 2010.

Produced By: Innova Recordings

Release Date: December 21, 2009

Catalog Number: innova767

PRISM Quartet: Breath Beneath

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet

World Premiere recordings of new, exciting American quartets by Kati Agocs, Zack Browning, Roshanne Etezady, Ross Feller, Kristin Kuster, and Rand Steiger.

Produced By: New Dynamic Records

Release Date: February 02, 2010

Pitch Black: Music for Saxophones by JacobTV

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet

Featuring Jacob ter Veldhuis' quartets Pitch Black, Jesus is Coming, and Postnuclear Winterscenario No. 10. Also included are solo works Grab It! (Matthew Levy, tenor saxophone), Billie (Taimur Sullivan, alto saxophone), and The Garden of Love (Timothy McAllister, soprano saxophone).

Produced By: Innova Recordings
Release Date: January 08, 2008
Catalog Number: 693

Music for Saxophones by William Albright

Ensemble(s): PRISM Quartet

The PRISM Quartet pays homage to William Albright (1944-1998) in this innova release. This remarkable disc of Albright's principal works for saxophone offers powerful testimony to the full range of his personality and his fascination with the expressive power of the instrument. A composer whose works move from sublime laments to raucous jazz, Albright created an extensive body of saxophone repertoire that is at once virtuosic, soulful, and daringly eclectic. His deep affinity for the instrument lasted throughout his career, until a long struggle with alcoholism led to his untimely death at the age of 53. Albright exerted a profound influence on the artistic development of the PRISM Quartet during the ensemble's formative years at the University of Michigan in the 1980s, inspiring them to champion new music with over 100 commissions by many of the nation's most celebrated composers.

Produced By: Innova Recordings
Release Date: October 01, 2007
Catalog Number: 687

COLD WATER DRY STONE

Ensemble(s): QUORUM

Quorum is pleased to announce the release of its debut CD, Cold Water Dry Stone. The disc, consisting entirely of the music of recently-named Composer-in-Residence Evan Chambers, creatively occupies these "in-between spaces." Neither strictly classical nor strictly folk music, Cold Water Dry Stone nevertheless paints a broad portrait of Chambers' musical life. Also featured is soprano Jennifer Goltz, who performs three songs on texts of Robert Tannahill (1774-1810), a poet and songwriter from Paisley, Scotland. The disc's title work was commissioned by Quorum and premiered in New York's Merkin Hall in 1999.

Produced By: Albany Records
Release Date: January 01, 2001
Catalog Number: TROY422

Imaginary Landscape Percussion Music

Ensemble(s): University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble, Carter Pann, piano.

Featuring Kevin Beavers' Shadowplays for alto saxophone, percussion ensemble, and piano.

Conductor: Michael Udow
Produced By: Equilibrium Records, Inc.
Release Date: February 22, 1996
Catalog Number: EQ003

Miscellaneous

Do It! Play the Saxophone

Timothy McAllister completed this recording project in 1998 in collaboration with noted music educator James O. Froseth called Do It! Play the Saxophone for G.I.A. Publications. Books available include alto and tenor saxophones, with over 70 minutes of music in each, including acoustical accompaniments and early improvisatory exercises.

Produced By: G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
Release Date: January 01, 1998