

SINTA QUARTET: A SAXOPHONE SOIRÉE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 | 6 PM | BELLEVUE HOUSE

RAIN DATE:
THURSDAY, JULY 6 | 11 AM | BELLEVUE HOUSE

Dan Graser, soprano saxophone
Zach Stern, alto saxophone
Joe Girard, tenor saxophone
Danny Hawthorne-Foss, baritone saxophone

DVOŘÁK arr. DSQ *String Quartet No. 12 in F Major "American"*
(Approximate duration 20 minutes)

LIGETI arr. DSQ *Six Bagatelles for Wind Quintet*
(Approximate duration 13 minutes)

LEÓ WEINER/GRASER *Csúrdögölő*
(Approximate duration 3 minutes)

INTERMISSION

JAY UNGAR/GRASER *Ashokan Farewell*
(Approximate duration 6 minutes)

BELA FLECK/GRASER *UFO Tofu*
(Approximate duration 4 minutes)

MARK O'CONNOR/GRASER *Appalachia Waltz*
(Approximate duration 7 minutes)

TRADITIONAL/GRASER *Reel Set*
Emily's Reel (Mark O'Connor)
Gold Rush
Mason's Apron
Angeline the Baker
(Approximate duration 12 minutes)

IRISH TRADITIONAL/GRASER *The Green Groves of Erin/The Flowers of Red Hill*
(Approximate duration 3 minutes)

The traditional music of the countries and ethnicities represented here has not only had a lasting influence on chamber music composed following serious study of this music but has endured as a tradition that remains alive and vibrant. Beginning with great works of the chamber music canon that have heavily used the folk tradition, this program then proceeds to a catalog of great traditional music from around the globe arranged for saxophone quartet specifically for this program ending with highly virtuosic music and great fun.

Sinta Quartet



“Virtuosic to the core” (Textura) and hailed as “a tight-knit ensemble exploding with power and virtuosity” (Boston Musical Intelligencer) the **Sinta Quartet** is on a mission to

bring the versatility, homogeneity, and excitement of the saxophone to audiences everywhere. Strengthening an already palpable connection with its audience by performing entirely from memory, the quartet provides a fresh take on chamber music that is at once beautiful, virtuosic, and a completely interactive experience.

The Sinta Quartet injects music and fun into the air for unsuspecting passersby by appearing in nontraditional venues such as grocery stores, bars, and other public places, but they have also performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Hall, and the Beijing Center for the Performing Arts. Since forming in 2010 as soloists for a tour of China with the University of Michigan Symphony Band, the quartet has concertized in 9 countries, 31 states, and 2 Canadian provinces, giving diverse audiences a chance to experience a classical saxophone quartet for the first time. The Sinta Quartet made history in 2013 as the first saxophone ensemble to win the Victor Elmaleh First Prize from the Concert Artists Guild Competition, and continued to achieve success on the competition circuit, winning the Gold Medal at the 2018 Fiscoff Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the 2017 M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition, the Alice Coleman Grand Prize at the 2013 Coleman Chamber Music Competition, and 1st Prize

at the 2012 North American Saxophone Alliance Competition.

The quartet’s programming takes the audience on an adventure through time, geography, and genre, often mixing classics from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries with commissions by today’s composers and rollicking in-house arrangements from various folk traditions. In addition to their live performances, the quartet recently released two albums featuring predominantly recent commissions and winning pieces from Sinta Quartet’s annual National Composition Competition. The first, *Collider*, hailed as, “An exciting ride! The ensemble, intonation, and technique in this recording are beyond question” (The Saxophonist Magazine), was released in 2019, and the second, *Ex Machina*, which was praised as “tightly performed and flawlessly recorded in generous, in-your-face sound” (Musical America), was released in 2020.

All four members of SQ are also passionate and dedicated teachers and relish the opportunity to play for and work with students of all ages. They carefully craft and curate programs designed for all levels of public school students and every type of community venue.

While Dan, Zach, Joe, and Danny all grew up in drastically different parts of the country (NY, TX, MI, and CA), they met at the University of Michigan where they studied with the legendary saxophone professor, Donald Sinta, and decided to name the group after him for the profound influence he had on each member and the inspired coaching he gave to the group during their student years. Managed by General Arts Touring, Inc., Sinta Quartet’s members are all Selmer-Paris Artists and perform exclusively on Selmer saxophones.