

ITALIAN SAXOPHONE QUARTET

FEDERICO MONDELICI, soprano saxophone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TIU70SqHuU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFZYWYs_PdM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf7mfnPN22Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaFLsn5wVvI&spfreload=10>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGT3QVBZAAE>

Italian Saxophone Quartet

FEDERICO MONDELICI, soprano sax MARCO GERBONI, alto sax

MARIO MARZI, tenor sax MASSIMO MAZZONI, baritone sax

Europe Meets the Americas

D. SCARLATTI/G. PIERNE'
(1685-1757) (1863-1937)

3 Pieces

Presto quanto sia possibile

Andante cantabile

Allegro assai

Jean FRANÇAIX
(1912-1997)

Petit Quatuor

Gaugenardise

Cantilene

Sérénade Comique

Samuel BARBER

Adagio

Michael NYMAN
(1944)

Song for Tony

Intermission

George GERSHWIN
(1898-1937)

Blues from "An American in Paris"

Leonard BERNSTEIN

West Side Story Suite

Pedro ITURRALDE
(1929)

Suite Ellenica

Kalamatianos

Valse

Kritis

Nino ROTA
(1911-1979)

Passerella (from Fellini's film 8 1/2)

Astor PIAZZOLLA
(1921-1992)

Oblivion

Libertango

THE ITALIAN SAXOPHONE QUARTET

The Italian Saxophone Quartet was founded in 1982 by four saxophone soloists, close friends determined to join together to perform chamber music for saxophone at the very highest artistic level. Now nearing the thirty-year mark as a group, they have played to wide acclaim in more than 900 concerts in Italy (including the most important concert institutions), France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Japan, USA, Sweden, Lebanon, Bermuda and Russia. The quartet's concerts have been recorded and broadcast by the Italian RAI-Radio 1 and RAI-Radio 3 as well as by Swedish, German, Japanese and American national radios.

In 1984 and 1985 the quartet won a number of important chamber music competitions including the unanimous First Prize at the prestigious "Premio Ancona" (under the direction of Goffredo Petrassi), and in addition, were awarded a special prize for their performance of contemporary music.

Among their important projects, in 1999 the quartet performed L. Berio's work "Outis" with the Symphony Orchestra of Milan's Teatro alla Scala. They recently appeared as soloists with the Malipiero Symphony Orchestra in works by P. M. Dubois and A. Piazzolla, and collaborated with the Fonè String Quartet on the creation a new arrangement of the Art of the Fugue by J.S. Bach for string and saxophone quartets, which was premiered at the XXII International Chamber Music Festival in Asolo.

Since 2002 the ISQ's annual tours of the United States have brought them to New York City (where they showcased at the annual Arts Presenters Conference), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and other venues in California, Florida, Georgia, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Idaho and Alaska.

Highlights of their discography include two CDs on the Delos label (Los Angeles) and a CD of contemporary music on the Pentaphon label.

Recent projects include concerts at the Al Bustan Festival Beirut (Lebanon), the Oleg Kagan Musikfest in Munich (Germany), a tour of the USA, and the Palaces of St. Petersburg Chamber Music Festival (Russia).

INDIVIDUAL BIOS:

FEDERICO MONDELICI has appeared as soloist with all the important Italian orchestras, including La Scala Milan, conducted by Seiji Ozawa. He has toured world-wide as soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. In the World Saxophone Congress, he has performed in Germany, Japan, Spain, Italy and the States. His CD of Piazzolla Tangos with Moscow Chamber Orchestra on has received great critical acclaim; another CD for RCA was the recipient of the "Diapason d'Or" medal.

MARCO GERBONI has won several prestigious prizes, including first prize in the "Premio Ancona." He has collaborated with many major Italian orchestras, including La Scala, Milan and the Florence Maggio Musicale. Gerboni has twice represented Italy at the

World Saxophone Congress and has performed worldwide. His recordings include discs for EMI, DELOS and STRADIVARIUS.

MARIO MARZI is a graduate chef famous for his carrot cake; he is also a great soccer player and top goal-scorer. In his spare time, as a saxophone player, he has won nine national and four international competitions and performed with Italy's most important orchestras. He worked for twenty years with the Teatro alla Scala and with the Filarmonica della Scala under the baton of the leading conductors of today: Carlo Maria Giulini, Georges Prêtre, Lorin Maazel, Luciano Berio, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Semyon Bychkov, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Gustavo Dudamel, and Claudio Abbado. His CD of the major saxophone concertos was recently released, and his book on saxophone is forthcoming with from Zecchini publishers.

MASSIMO MAZZONI has worked with many important orchestras throughout Italy, frequently as soloist. He represented Italy at several World Saxophone Congresses, including in Germany, USA, Japan and Spain. In addition, Mazzoni was the sole organiser of the 10th Congress, which took place in Italy in 1992 and involved 500 saxophonists. He has made recordings for BMG, Pentaphon, Ricordi etc.

REVIEWS – RECENSIONI

L'ORIENT LE JOUR

L'intelligence des géométries musicales les plus complexes ne les a jamais conduit à une lecture purement cérébrale car leur sûreté technique leur laissait toute latitude pour imprimer aux œuvres la marque d'une sensibilité à l'éventail très riche.

"The four saxophonist virtuosi were applauded with a standing ovation"

Wolfsburger Allgemeine

"The four musicians achieved here a sound which sounded so much better than the original instruments this music was written for. It was refreshing to hear that the music of Gabrielis was not performed with sacred "solemnity" normally associated with this composer but with the alive tempi which characterised this infectiously good concert."

Your playing of my music was wonderful . So much heart! I've never heard such sensitive musical playing from a quartet of four saxophones.

Joe Harnell

REPUBBLICA

...e quanto a musicalità ne hanno da vendere, e quanto a tecnica pure. Applausi nutritissimi, per noi avrebbero potuto continuare a suonare ancora e ancora.

Michelangelo Zurletti

DIE WELT

Das "Ensemble Italiano di Sassofoni" bot ein anspruchsvolles farbiges Programm, das besonders die Stilsicherheit der jungen Künstler bezüglich der Interpretation von Musik unterschiedlichster Epochen duetlich werden ließ. Die Werke im Programm wurden von den italienischen Saxophonvirtuosen geradezu hinreißend gespielt.

BERGAMO OGGI

Antonio Brena

Sostenuti da una tecnica raffinata i quattro sassofonisti pesaresi hanno saputo condurre sul filo rigoroso e convincente dell'interpretazione più genuina e spontanea un programma studiato con sapiente competenza e musicalità. Pubblico tanto sorpreso quanto soddisfatto e caloroso negli applausi.

IL MESSAGGERO

Carlo Boschi

L'Ensemble Italiano di Sassofoni ha dato prova di grande professionalità. Questo gruppo di strumentisti vanta già una notevole carriera e si pone di diritto fra i gruppi più interessanti del panorama musicale italiano, sia per l'originalità dell'organico che per l'indubbia qualità delle sue esecuzioni.

GAZZETTA DEL SUD

Roberto Messina

...un Ensemble perfetto ed assai spettacolare che sicuramente farà parlare di se.

IL TEMPO - Roma

Clara Falcone

...la corona della serata vada al sassofono, presentato dai giovani musicisti marchigiani, strumento solitamente degradato che si trasfigura in una nobiltà vocale, esprimendo una umanità piegata ad ogni trapasso sonoro pregevole, di volta in volta di una propria voce, secondo il colore del tempo.

IL TEMPO Roma

Mostrano, ciascuno per sé, sicuro intuito e padronanza di strumento e assieme, comune tenzone ed amalgama d'esecuzione.