



JOHN THOMAS, saxophonist

Biography, 2016-2017

JOHN THOMAS IS PLOTTING A NEW COURSE

Protean artist John Thomas spans the chasm between the concert and jazz saxophone worlds. Equally adept at the arts of improvisation and interpretation, he insistently explores the bounds of genre and idiom.

From his beginnings as a jazz saxophonist, to appearing with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and composing his own electro-acoustic music, he has refined and expanded his horizons as a performer and educator- a model of the 21st Century musician.

As a classical performer, he has premiered new solo and chamber works both in the US and abroad. He actively performs the standard repertoire of the saxophone, as well new works by young composers and electro-acoustic compositions.

As a jazz musician, Mr. Thomas has appeared with such artists as Bob Mintzer, Kevin Mahogany, Slide Hampton, and Michael Formanek. Pop music engagements include appearances with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Glen Miller Orchestra, Ben Vereen, and Little Anthony and the Imperials.

In the Baltimore area, Mr. Thomas is a busy freelance performer and has performed at venues including Meryerhoff Symphony Hall, Wolf Trap, the Strathmore, and Bethesda Blues and Jazz.

Mr. Thomas has performed at North American Saxophone Alliance national and regional conferences, the U.S. Navy Band Saxophone Symposium, and the World Saxophone Congress at Mahidol University in Thailand.

Mr. Thomas is an experienced and effective educator, having previously held teaching positions at East Carolina University, the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado Christian University. Before relocating to Baltimore, he was the Director of Jazz Studies at Casper College, and is currently the Director of Jazz Ensembles at the Baltimore School of the Arts while maintaining an active private saxophone studio.

He holds a double Masters of Music in Jazz Studies and Saxophone Performance from East Carolina University. Currently, Mr. Thomas is pursuing a doctoral degree in classical saxophone performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

John Thomas is [Vandoren Regional Artist](#), and is available for recitals, concerts, clinics, and masterclasses.

RECITAL PROGRAM 1- THE AMERICAN SAXOPHONE

Lessons of the Sky- Rodney Rogers

Picnic on the Marne- Ned Rorem

- I. Driving From Paris
- II. A Bend in the River
- III. Bal Musette
- IV. Vermouth
- V. A Tense Discussion
- VI. Making U
- VII. The Ride Home

San Antonio, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano- John Harbison

- I. The Summons
- II. Line Dance
- III. Couples Dance

INTERMISSION

Don't Explain- Billie Holiday/Arthur Herzog

Get Happy- Harold Arlen/ Ted Koehler

East of The Sun- Brooks Bowman

Smile- Charlie Chaplin

Oleo- Sonny Rollins

RECITAL PROGRAM 2- THE ELECTRIC SAXOPHONE

Partita in A Minor, BWV 1013 (with delay and reverb)- JS Bach

Tourmaline- Alexandra Gardner

A Sudden Change in the Consistency of Snow- Peter Swendsen

The Garden of Love- Jacob Ter Veldhuis

INTERMISSION

Midway Inlet- McGregor Boyle

Sheets of Sound- James M. David

Self-Medicating with Cheesecake- John Thomas

CONCERTO REPERTOIRE 2016-2017

Concertos

Bennett, Richard Rodney
Concerto for Stan Getz

Glazounov, A.
Concerto for Alto Saxophone and string orchestra

Higdon, Jennifer
Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and orchestra (also available for wind ensemble)

Koppel, Anders
Concerto No. 2 for Alto Saxophone

Solo Works with Orchestra

Various Arrangers
Selections from Charlie Parker with Strings

Milhaud, D.
Scaramouche for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra

Williams, John
Escapades, for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra