

PRISM Quartet | members

Matt Levy (tenor saxophone), hailed by the *Saxophone Journal* as "a complete virtuoso of the tenor saxophone" and by the *New York Times* for his "energetic and enlivening" performances, is distinguished as both an interpreter and composer of contemporary music. He has been a frequent guest artist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and has performed throughout the Americas and Europe, including in Milan's La Scala Opera House where he worked under Karlheinz Stockhausen in the critically acclaimed production and premiere of *Samstag aus Licht*, released on Deutsche Grammophon Records. Most recently, he has collaborated with Group Motion Dance Company in a series of interdisciplinary productions by Manfred Fishbeck. Matt holds three degrees from the University of Michigan where he studied saxophone with Donald Sinta; composition with William Bolcom, William Albright, Fred Lerdahl; and was the first recipient of the Lawrence Teal Award.

Comfortable in a wide range of musical settings, Matt has composed works for orchestra, choir, musical theater, dance, jazz and electronic music ensembles. His music has been described as "gorgeous and ethereal" by *Classical Magazine* and "pulsing and wittily colored" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and has been broadcasted on NPR's "Performance Today" from Washington DC; WQRS's "Around Town" from Detroit; WQXR's "The Listening Room" from New York City; WFMT's "Dame Myra Hess Series" from Chicago; CBC and "Voice of America." He has also scored four motion pictures, including PBS's "Diary of a City Priest" by Emmy nominee Eugene Martin, featured at the Sundance Film Festival. Matt may be heard on Koch International, CRI, Innova, Deutsche Grammophon, Grammavision, and Tzadik. He serves as director of the Philadelphia Music Project, an Artistic Initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Timothy McAllister (soprano saxophone) has been hailed by critics nationwide for his "lyrical modern touch" (*American Record Guide*), "virtuoso artistry" (*Saxophone Journal*), and "beautifully rounded tone" (*Ann Arbor News*). He has appeared in important venues, on radio and in television broadcasts throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, including solo debuts in Carnegie Hall Isaac Stern Auditorium, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and Rotterdam's Zaal de Unie. He has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Houston Civic and Symphony Orchestras, the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble and the New World Symphony.

Co-founding member of the new music group, QUORUM, Tim is responsible for over 60 premieres for saxophone. His critically-acclaimed recordings can be heard on the Centaur, Equilibrium, CRI, Naxos, Albany, Einstein, G.I.A. and AUR record labels. Tim is professor of saxophone at the University of Arizona, and received degrees from The University of Michigan. A student of Donald Sinta, he was awarded the music school's highest honors, including the Laurence Teal Award, the Earl V. Moore Award, and the Albert A. Stanley Medal. In October 2002 he received the Paul C. Boylan Alumni Award from Michigan for his significant contributions to the field of music. Additionally, he has served as a guest professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, and serves on the summer faculty of the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Zachary Shemon (alto saxophone) has been recognized nationally as both a soloist and chamber musician. He made his orchestral debut at the age of eighteen, performing Jacques Ibert's *Concertino da Camera* with the Plymouth, MI symphony. As a soloist, Zach has been extremely successful in competition, winning the Lansing Matinee Musicale Woodwind Artist Competition in 2005, the Hixon Saxophone/Clarinet Award in 2004, and being invited to compete in the Heida Hermann's International Woodwind Competition in 2003. He was a two-time concerto competition finalist at the University of Michigan and has performed concertos by Michael Colgrass and William Bolcom with the UM Bands. He has also been a featured soloist on multiple occasions with the Plymouth, MI Symphony and the Ann Arbor Concert Band. In addition to his appearances as a soloist, Zach has performed with the Windsor, ON symphony and was featured with the University of Michigan Symphony Band at Carnegie Hall in 2005. As a chamber musician, he was prize-winner in the 2005 Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition and performed William Bolcom's *Concerto Grosso* with his former quartet, Twelve-Ten. About the performance of his piece, Bolcom wrote, "Twelve-Ten did a stellar job on the saxophone quartet solo part...they inhabited the spirit of the piece with perfect comfort". Zach currently maintains a private saxophone studio in the Ann Arbor, MI area. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan in both Saxophone Performance and Engineering. His primary teachers have been Donald Sinta and Jay Berckley.

Taimur Sullivan (baritone saxophone) is active internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. He has recently been presented in his Carnegie Hall Debut as a soloist with the National Wind Ensemble, and performed at Montreal's Festival Lanaudiere as a soloist with the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne. Of his New York debut in Merkin Hall, he was acclaimed by the *New York Times* for his "...seductive breadth of tone and considerable technical agility," and has received subsequent praise as "outstanding...his virtuosity supreme" (*New York Times*) and "not only dedicated and skilled, but also talented, fearless and sensitive... the sounds he made...were fully and deliciously drawn" (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*). Taimur has also been featured as a soloist at New York's Lincoln Center, London's Kings College, and Germany's EarMarks Festival. An active proponent of contemporary music performance, Taimur has premiered over 100 works by both established and emerging composers.

At home in the jazz as well as the classical world, Taimur has performed behind the Platters, the Drifters, Louis Bellson, Cecil Bridgewater, Bunky Green and Jimmy Heath, and has also toured extensively throughout the former Soviet Union. He has recorded for the Mode, Albany, Capstone, Innova, Mastersound and Zuma labels, and holds degrees from the University of Illinois and Michigan State University where he has studied with James Forger, Joseph Lulloff and Debra Richtmeyer. Taimur has performed with Ensemble 21, Ensemble Sospeso, Mark Morris Dance Company, Speculum Musicae, Concordia Orchestra, Riverside Symphony, and the Bang On A Can All-Stars, among others, and is a director of the ThreeTwo Festival. He serves on the artist/faculty of the North Carolina School of the Arts and on the Contemporary Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music.

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