

# KIRK MACDONALD - SAXOPHONIST



## PRESS

Over the past decade, Toronto tenor saxophonist Kirk MacDonald has established a national identity. His throaty, full-bodied sound graces numerous recordings, and his performances across the country have made him a must see attraction. Coupled with superb compositional abilities, MacDonald's complete musicianship gives him a creative edge.

Greg Sutherland - THE JAZZ REPORT

Finally MacDonald whose tone is the essence of tenor sax, packed to the gunwhales with harmonics and overtones, began to do that thing that he does - an endless stream of bop-like lines which he pours out, without repeating himself, as though he wasn't simply playing licks, but tapping into a subterranean jet-stream of melodic invention.

Steve Pederson - CHRONICLE HERALD

## RECORD REVIEWS

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** This is a CD that bears repeated listening with satisfaction attending every hearing. While the music is often dense and detailed, there is a justness in the proportions, a balance among the solos, and a seamlessness in the ensemble that only comes when first-rate players run full-out on intuition guided by superb aural perception.

Steve Pederson CHRONICLE HERALD

From the first notes of the rugged On The Sierra Nevada the session is hard-bop heaven...All the soloists animate the charts, turning up the improv heat as guitarist Lorne Lofsky, bassist Neil Swainson and drummer Jerry Fuller generate the glowing warmth of an open fire. Geoff Chapman THE TORONTO STAR

**THE ATLANTIC SESSIONS:** A powerful session recorded in Halifax by the Toronto based tenor is his best yet...MacDonald's third outing as a leader pinpoints his fervour and fire, insistent search for new sounds and hard yet opulent tone.

Geoff Chapman - THE TORONTO STAR

...this is a strong, hard bop date that finds Kirk MacDonald (a player who deserves to be much better known) in prime form.

Scott Yanow - THE JAZZ REPORT

**REMINISCENCE:** MacDonald sounds stronger and more beautiful than ever. His impressive musicality in both his playing and writing continues to inspire.

Campbell Ryga - THE JAZZ REPORT

Satisfying post-bop effort, again stylish and substantial.

Mark Miller - THE GLOBE AND MAIL

**THE REVELLERS:** Tenor saxophonist Kirk MacDonald plays to the deep strengths of his instrument on "The Revellers" regarding tradition without becoming tradition's slave.

Randall McIlroy - WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

It's a measure of MacDonald's inventiveness that he manages to find new things to say with war horses like "Embraceable You", and "Body and Soul".

Paul Wells - MONTREAL GAZETTE

## **KIRK MACDONALD ~ SAXOPHONIST**

Saxophonist Kirk MacDonald's latest release on KOCH Jazz, "The Atlantic Sessions", has garnered rave reviews and has received two of Canada's most prestigious music awards. The 1999 Juno Award for "Best Mainstream Jazz Release" and The 1999 Jazz Report Award for "Album of the Year". In addition, Kirk won The 1999 Jazz Report Award for "Tenor Saxophonist of the Year". As a member of The Chris Mitchell Quintet, Kirk MacDonald also received The 1999 Prix de Jazz from the Montreal International Jazz Festival.

### **CONTACT**

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### **BACKGROUND**

Kirk started to play the saxophone at age 10, studying with Bill Loeb in Sydney, Nova Scotia, from 1969 to 1971 and later entering a High School Music Program under Terry Hill studying saxophones, clarinet, flute, music theory and composition. Kirk has worked with many leading jazz musicians including Claude Ranger, Dave Young, Sam Noto, Sonny Greenwich, Kenny Wheeler, Eddie Henderson, Harold Mabern, Walter Bishop Jr., Lorne Lofsky, Bob Mover, Pat LaBarbera, Phil Woods, John Taylor, and Ron McClure. Kirk has appeared on over 25 jazz recordings. In addition, Kirk has recorded over 30 of his own compositions on C.D.

### **STUDIES & EDUCATION**

- 1973 - 1975** studied classical saxophone under Bruce MacKinley, in Sydney, Nova Scotia.
- 1975** the summer of 1975 attended Berklee College in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1975 - 1977** studied privately with Don Palmer on saxophones, flute and improvisation.
- 1977** attended Humber College in Toronto.
- 1978** during college tenure, studied privately with Pat LaBarbera.
- 1981** studied with George Coleman in New York City, during the summer of 1981.
- 1982** awarded a "B" Grant from the Canada Council to further studies in saxophone and improvisation with Lee Konitz in New York City.
- 1992** awarded a "B" Grant from the Canada Council to study composition with composer/pianist Garry Dial.
- 1998** awarded Canada Council Grant for composition to create new works for septet and quintet.

# **KIRK MACDONALD ~ SAXOPHONIST**

## **TEACHING & CLINICS**

As well as teaching privately in Toronto and Ottawa, the following lists involvement in teaching at clinics and universities:

### **Instructor of Jazz Saxophone:**

**1987 - 1991** ~ Ottawa University, Ottawa, Ontario

**1989 - 1992** ~ Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

**1996 - 1998** ~ Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario

**1988 - 1989** ~ McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

### **Instructor of Saxophone, Improvisation, Ensembles & Ear Training**

**1993 - present** ~ University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

## **CLINICS:**

- Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
- Grant McEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta
- York University, Toronto, Ontario
- McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
- National Music Camp, Orillia, Ontario ~ 1993 - present
- Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology, Toronto, Ontario
- Seoul Jazz Academy, Seoul, Korea
- Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario
- Creative Music School, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Saskatchewan Band Camp, Regina, Saskatchewan ~ 1996, 1997
- Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta
- Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

**ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:** Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia ~  
January 1997 & January 1998

## **PERFORMANCES:**

Kirk has performed at many Jazz Festivals and club/concerts throughout Canada, the United States, Australia, Italy, Spain and Korea. His work has been documented on many national radio broadcasts, including broadcasts with Bob Mover, Pat LaBarbera, Sam Noto, Lorne Lofsky, Kevin Dean, and Kenny Wheeler, as well as his own groups.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

- The Jazz Report Magazine ~ Profile of Kirk MacDonald ~ summer edition, 1995
- The Globe and Mail ~ Profile of Kirk MacDonald ~ August 1991
- "20 Original Compositions as recorded by Kirk MacDonald" ~ J & W Music

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## SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

AS LEADER	TITLE	RECORD LABEL
Kirk MacDonald	New Beginnings***	Radioland/Verve
Kirk MacDonald	The Atlantic Sessions**	KOCH Jazz
Kirk MacDonald	Reminiscence*	Counterpoint Records
Kirk MacDonald	The Revellers	Unity/Paige Records
Various Artists	The Power Of Beauty A Tribute To Stan Getz	Radioland
AS SIDEMAN	TITLE	RECORD LABEL
Manteca	Manteca	Ready Records
Joe Coughlin	Second Debut	Innovation Records
Bill King and the Jazz Report All Stars	Moment's Notice	Radioland
Liberty Silver	Live In Session	Radioland
Kieran Overs	Shapeshift	Unity/Paige Records
Ken Skinner	Stirling Silver	Village Jazz
Maritime Jazz Orchestra (featuring Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Norma Winstone)	Siren's Song****	Justin Time
Kingsley Etienne	Step-in' Out	SJ Records
Pat Beliveau	La Zona Blanca	PABCO Music
Chris Mitchell (featuring Phil Woods)	The Witches of Red Beard	KOCH Jazz
Dave Hutchinson	Out On A Limb	Davrio Productions
Sam Noto Quintet	Now Hear This	Supermono
Marc Jordan	This Is How Men Cry	Bluenote
Tony Quarrington	One Bright Morning	Cordova Bay
Bernie Senensky Quintet (featuring Eddie Henderson)	New Horizons*****	Timeless
Chris Mitchell Quintet	Spectrum	Justin Time
Andre White Quartet	Signal	Cornerstone

\*East Coast Music Awards: nominated Best Jazz Artist 1996

\*\* Juno Awards: winner Best Mainstream Jazz Album 1999

\*\*\* Juno Awards: nominated Best Mainstream Jazz Album 2001

\*\*\*\* Juno Awards: nominated Best Mainstream Jazz Album 1999

\*\*\*\*\* Juno Awards: nominated Best Mainstream Jazz Album 2000

\*\* The Jazz Report Awards: Jazz Album of the Year 1999,  
The Jazz Report Awards: Tenor Saxophonist of the Year 1999

### TO BE RELEASED

- Kirk MacDonald and John Taylor
- Lorne Lofsky Quartet
- Maritime Jazz Orchestra  
(featuring Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, and Norma Winstone)

<http://www.kirkmacdonald.com>