

Alexander Graham

Saxophone
Flute
Clarinet

November – April

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May – October

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EDUCATION

Eastman School of Music, DMA Candidate, 2005-Present Rochester

Wayne State University, MM, 2004 Detroit

New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, BFA, 1994 New York

PRIVATE STUDIES

Saxophone

Vincent Herring, New York, 1991
Billy Harper, New York, 1991-92
Arnie Lawrence, New York, 1993-94
Steve Wilson, New York, 1994
Ramon Ricker, Rochester, 2005-Present

Composition and Arranging

Bob Belden, New York, 1992-94
Henry Martin, New York, 1991-94
Bill Dobbins, Rochester, 2006-Present

Flute

Ervin Monroe, Detroit, 2004

Clarinet

Ramon Ricker, Rochester, 2005-Present

EXPERIENCE

Grand Hotel

Music Director

Mackinac Island, MI

2001- present

- Hired, scheduled and supervised staff of up to 20 musicians at a time for four diamond summer resort
- Led and constructed music groups for a variety of events and styles
- Mediated rehearsals and arranged charts for various instrumentation including arrangements for vocalists Diane Schuur, Marlena Shaw and John Boutte
- Coordinated schedules and logistics of, and performed media outreach for Jazz Festival including headliners Ramsey Lewis, Pete Fountain, The Count Basie Orchestra, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Kurt Elling and George Shearing
- Participated in hotel management planning sessions

Freelance Musician

New York, NY 1994-2002

Bandleader

- Worked with various musicians including pianists Brad Mehldau, Diane Schuur, Mark Levine and Rick Roe, guitarist Peter Bernstein, bassist Rodney Whitaker
- West Coast tours (1998 and 1997) performed in club venues in cities including San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Vancouver

Sideman

- Hired by trumpeters Louis Smith, Joe Magnarelli, Jim Rotundi, Johnny Trudell and pianists Michael Weiss, Rick Roe and Dena Derose
- Played and/or toured with groups including Sam Yahel, Cecil Payne and Ryan Kisor

Arranger

- Arranged nine songs for 6-piece ensemble plus vocalist John Boutte, which were recorded live at Smoke Jazz Club in New York City in March, 2004

- Arranged “Hey There” for 6-piece ensemble plus vocalist Diane Schuur for a tribute to Rosemary Clooney in September, 2003.

Teacher

- Teaching assistant at Eastman School of Music. Currently assisting with several small-group ensembles and substitute teaching classes such as “Jazz Music Theory” and “Jazz Performance Workshop.”
- Beginning an internship with several universities that will bring exceptional students to work and study at Grand Hotel, beginning in the summer of 2006.
- Guest Lecturer at University of Toledo, March 2005; “Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement”
- Substitute teacher for Wayne State Lab Band on several occasions, 2003-04
- Coached several small group, undergraduate ensembles at Wayne State University, 2003-04
- In-house woodwinds instructor at Music Maker in Hicksville, NY
- Numerous private students, New York City, 1994-98

RESIDENCIES

Alden B. Dow Creativity Center

Midland, Michigan

Fellowship

Summer, 2000

- Awarded participation in ten week program for selected artists and writers
- Designed project which included composing and recording a 4-movement piece for soprano, tenor, alto saxophone, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, various percussion, acoustic guitar and didgeridoo
- Played each instrument and combined tracks using Pro Tools computer software
- Performed composition on alto saxophone for live audience with six separate pre-recorded parts in “surround sound”

The Millay Colony for the Arts

Austerlitz, New York,

Residency

September, 1998

- Completed a composition project at competitive residency program for composers, visual artists and writers
- Wrote and recorded seven songs on 4-track cassette recorder using voice, electric guitar, electric bass, drums, piano
- Learned and performed parts for all instruments for the recording

AWARDS

Eastman School of Music

Rochester, NY

- Awarded Full-Tuition Teaching Assistantship, \$1,500 George Marge fund scholarship and \$1,500 annual stipend

Wayne State University

Detroit, MI

- Awarded full in-state tuition for all semesters of studies
- Awarded a competitive scholarship of \$1,000 for completed research (open category)
- Awarded a competitive scholarship of \$1,000 for saxophone performance (jazz)
- Honorary inductee into the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Wayne State University Chapter

The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music

New York, NY

- Awarded a yearly merit scholarship of \$2,500

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Grand: Alex Graham Live in New York, Featuring John Boutte GHO Records, Recorded March, 2004

Personnel

Track List

Alex Graham-Alto Saxophone

1. Almost Like Being in Love

Alex Norris-Trumpet

2. I Cover the Waterfront

Ian Hendrickson-Smith-Tenor Saxophone

3. Hallelujah, I Love Her So

Jeremy Manasia-Piano

4. Do You Know What it Means (to Miss New Orleans)

Matt Hughes-Bass

5. Firm Roots

Brian Floody-Drums

6. Basin St. Blues

John Boutte-Vocal

7. All of Me

8. Let Them Talk

9. Blues For K

10. At the Foot of Canal Street

11. I'm Walkin'

Alexander Graham and the Grand Hotel Orchestra

GHO Records, Recorded March, 2002

Personnel

Track List

Alex Graham-Alto Saxophone
Alex Norris-Trumpet
J. Walter Hawkes-Trombone and Vocals
Jeremy Manasia-Piano
Matt Hughes-Bass
Brian Floody-Drums

1. Almost Like Being in Love
2. I Cover the Waterfront
3. Hallelujah, I Love Her So
4. Do You Know What it Means (to Miss New Orleans)
5. Firm Roots
6. Basin St. Blues
7. All of Me
8. Let Them Talk
9. Blues For K
10. At the Foot of Canal Street
11. I'm Walkin'

Hi-Fi

Origin Arts, Recorded June, 1998

Personnel
Alex Graham-Alto Saxophone
Whitney Ashe-Piano
Gary Wang-Bass
Matt Jorgensen-Drums

- Track List
1. Explosion (Graham)
 2. Forthcoming (Ashe)
 3. Russian Lullaby
 4. Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most
 5. Enlah (Ashe)
 6. Barracudas (Shorter)
 7. Con Alma (Gillespie)
 8. More or Less (Graham)

The Good Life

Origin Arts, Recorded April, 1998

Personnel
Alex Graham-Alto Sax, Flute, Clarinet
Rick Roe-Piano
Rodney Whitaker-Bass
Joe Strasser-Drums

- Track List
1. Push (Graham)
 2. I Had the Craziest Dream
 3. It's a Long Way Down (Shorter)
 4. The Good Life
 5. Explosion (Graham)
 6. On a Misty Night (Dameron)

Countdown

Schoolkids' Records, Recorded November, 1995

Personnel
Alex Graham-Alto Saxophone
Louis Smith- Trumpet
Joe Magnarelli-Trumpet
Rick Roe-Piano
John Webber-Bass
Joe Farnsworth-Drums

- Track List
1. Countdown (Coltrane)
 2. Thirsty Eyes (Graham)
 3. The Mole People (Graham)
 4. Stairway to the Stars (Melnick/Parish)
 5. Ande (Smith)
 6. Jubilation (Mance)
 7. Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man (Kern)
 8. Blues Legacy (Milt Jackson)

REVIEWS

Countdown

- "*Countdown* is... Graham's impressive debut album.... In a rendition of "Countdown" that would make even Coltrane raise an appreciative eyebrow... Graham's alto becomes a device to channel the spirit of Trane as his notes jump through the hoops.... The album features two originals: 'The Mole People',... Graham's sharp-witted mix of hard bop with a Latin punch. This evening's searing rendition demonstrates forward thinking improvisations..." - David Bratton, 5/4 magazine (Seattle)

- "Alto saxophonist Graham, who earned his degree from the Bird/Cannonball/Jackie McLean/Phil Woods school of hard-bopping, glides easily through a varied program... He is an accomplished player..." - Cadence, Vol. 23 No. 6

- "*Countdown* is... as crisp as celery." - Paul DeBarros, Seattle Times

- "If you enjoy Blue Note, Prestige and Riverside records of the 1950's and early 60's, then this disc is for you. The saxophonist's compositions and sonics recall bands led by Dexter Gordon, Sonny Rollins and Horace Silver. Graham and his cohorts have learned their lessons well." -Deni Kasrel, Jazz Times

Hi-Fi

- “‘More or Less’ is a neat original; friendly but sad... This has a lot going for it, much of it Alex Graham. His sound is full and developed... 3 and a half stars; this week’s record of the week.” -John Barrett Jr. Allaboutjazz.com

- “Altoist [Alex] Graham gets more solo room than a neophyte can expect to sustain, but he generally does a good job of tearing through the changes with a sense of line that seems to have been shaped by Jackie McLean.”- Cadence

- “On ‘Spring Can Really Hang You up the Most’, Graham's alto statement is stunningly lyrical as it rides the melody line over Ashe's comping piano... Although all the players get plenty of action on this CD, it's Graham's sax that establishes the ground rules for the way the music is to be advanced. Some of the great alto players, Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderley, Phil Woods and even a touch of Johnny Hodges can be discerned as he works to extend the parameters of the horn on such cuts as ‘Enlah’ and the album's tour de force track, Graham's haunting, absorbing ‘More or Less’.”- Dave Nathan, All Music Guide

The Good Life

- “In one word: Impressive... This CD is meant to be savored like a fine wine.”- Tristan Smith, JazzReview.com

- “This quartet session, led by sax player Alex Graham, takes a crack at showing off all that can be right with a quartet in the post-bop era.”- Adam Greenburg, All Music Guide

- “A strong outing from alto saxophonist Alex Graham.”- Dan McClenaghan, Allaboutjazz.com

Grand: Alex Graham Live in New York, Featuring John Boutte

- “Grand,” the rockin’, swinging and jazzy new release recorded live by alto saxophonist Alex Graham at New York’s Smoke nightclub, really cooks and puts you right there in the front row, grooving on the sounds... Soulful, sultry, singing with a snappy rhythm section that keep your toes a-tappin’ and horn-playing that puts a smile on your face long after you’ve heard it and put the CD back on the shelf, it is, indeed...“Grand.”- Butch Berman, bermanmusicfoundation.org