

Dutch saxophonist **Niels Bijl** performs as a chamber musician in many ensembles, and since 2000 he has been a member of the renowned Aurelia Saxophone Quartet. He regularly performs in projects with professional orchestras in The Netherlands, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. Recently he was invited to play in Sir Georg Solti's/Valery Gergiev's World Orchestra for Peace and has since become the orchestra's official saxophonist.

Niels CD, 'Chant du saxophone tenor', was released in 2008. and he is currently in the final stages of completing his latest CD "MOZAIK" with Sony, which features nine premiere recordings for tenor saxophone, including Schubert's 'Arpeggione' Sonata.

Born in Winnipeg, Canada, **Diedre Irons** made her official debut with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra at eighteen playing Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano and Winds. After completing a degree at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, she was invited to join the faculty and taught there for seven years.

In 1977 Diedre moved to New Zealand, and since then she has performed regularly with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. She has toured many times for Chamber Music New Zealand, as well as appearing regularly on Radio and Television New Zealand.

In 1989 Diedre was awarded an MBE for services to music, and in 2007 she received a Doctorate of Music (honoris causa) from Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada 'in recognition of outstanding contributions in the world of music through superlative achievement as a talented, dedicated and passionate pianist'. Diedre currently teaches at the New Zealand School of Music.