

# SAXCESS

## Programme:

Bolero	Ravel
Medieval Suite	Anon arr Saxcess
Shoehorn	Karlo Margetic NZ
Journey	Ludgar Klisters
The Witch's Baking Charleston – Dew Fairy Tango – Curtain Call	Claire Cowan NZ
Klezmer Wedding	Mike Curtis
Interval	
Deep Dive - Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Peter Liley NZ/Handel
Portales de Madrugada	Arturo Márquez
Wapango	Paquito Rivera
Muerto del Angel	Astor Piazzolla
Highland Carnival [Mięsopustnicy]	Trad arr. A Nowicki NZ
Gig!	Andrew tweed
Czardas	Monti

### 1. SAXCESS SUPER SHORT BIOGRAPHY

NZ's premier Sax Quartet delivers a rich kaleidoscope of sounds – **swing, classical, tango, cutting edge NZ contemporary** and much more. For decades this group have delighted both old and young and are enjoyed by music lovers everywhere.

### 2. SAXCESS SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

Saxcess is a project based collective based in New Zealand, and is founded and lead by Debbie Rawson. The quartet have undertaken numerous nation-wide tours in their homeland and recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have also played at all the major Arts Festivals of Aotearoa and performed original New Zealand compositions at Saxophone Congresses in Australia, Belgium and the USA. They have premiered multiple works for saxophone quartet, and are proud to have given hundreds of schools and community outreach concerts.

### 3. SAXCESS LONG BIOGRAPHY

Following their debut at the Sydney opera house in 1992, Saxcess has performed in NZ and internationally ever since. In 1994 the group travelled to Belgium for a three week tour in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the death of Adolphe Sax, creator of the saxophone. Since then Saxcess has undertaken numerous nation-wide tours for Creative New Zealand, Chamber Music New Zealand, and Arts On Tour NZ. They have also toured with the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the New Zealand String Quartet, and premiered NZ composers' works at international Saxophone Congresses in Australia and the USA. Group

members have performed with the NZSO and Orchestra Wellington, and the ensemble have featured at all the major Arts Festivals of Aotearoa, and commissioned and premiered a total of 25 new works by prominent NZ composers. The players are also proud to have given hundreds of schools and community outreach concerts.

In 2023 Saxcess had their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the ensemble is preparing a CD of new works to celebrate 3 decades of commissioning and premiering the music of NZ's very own composers.

#### **LINKS:**

<https://www.facebook.com/saxcessnz>

#### **QUOTES:**

'...one of New Zealand's greatest musical exports..' Lindis Taylor, Dompost.

'...these musicians blew up a storm' Sydney Morning Herald

'Saxcess have more pull than Pavorotti' John Button, Dompost

#### **The Performers:**

##### **Debbie Rawson** soprano/alto:

Formerly Head of Woodwind at the NZSM, Victoria University, Debbie studied clarinet at Canterbury University and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. She is a soloist, chamber and orchestral player, university tutor, and founding member and leader of several ensembles. Orchestral activities have included principal clarinet of Orchestra Wellington and orchestral soloist with the NZSO. She has toured internationally and played frequently in this country for Chamber Music NZ, Arts on Tour NZ, and for most of our festivals. Debbie was recently a recipient of the Lilburn Citation Award for outstanding services to New Zealand Music.

##### **Richar Marin Hidalgo** soprano/alto:

Richar was born in Colombia, South America, but Aotearoa has been his home for the last 6 years. He has a Master of Music bachelor's degree from Fine Arts University Foundation of Medellin Colombia, specialized in Conducting and Classical saxophone from Government of Antioquia Colombia, and has also a Master's degree in social psychology from Catholic University of Cuyo. With these qualifications and 20 years of experience, he has successfully been able to combine two of his passions: music and social work. He strongly believes in the transformative power of the arts and hopes through music to empower people to live in a better world.

##### **Franz Ombler** tenor:

Originally from Dunedin, Franz Ombler studied flute with Denise Wark and picked up the saxophone in school jazz bands. After moving to Wellington's south coast, he found himself living next door to the Saxcess rehearsal studio.

Initially drafted in as a stand-in for absent players, he became a core member under Debbie Rawson's tutelage. Franz studied politics, philosophy and computer science at Victoria University and the University of Otago, later co-founding tech companies 1000minds and GoSkills. When he's not coding or practising, he enjoys exploring the underwater world.

**Rachel Collingridge** baritone:

Rachel studied clarinet at Victoria University of Wellington, completing an M.Mus around the time Saxcess was first formed. After a busy early career playing and teaching woodwinds, including extensive orchestral work on clarinet, saxophone and flute, she moved into software development and now works as a senior technology leader.

Rachel has now returned to performing and is thrilled to be back playing with such a talented, energetic and fun group of musicians.

**Jeremy Fitzsimons** Percussion:

Jeremy is a freelance percussionist currently based in Thames. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1996, Jeremy first gained a Bachelor of Music with first class honours from Victoria University of Wellington, and a Masters and Post Graduate Performance Certificate from Northwestern University in Chicago. He was Principal Percussionist of Orchestra Wellington and still performs regularly with the NZSO, Auckland Philharmonia, and the Pink Floyd Experience. Current projects include Silent Movies Live - piano and percussion accompaniment to Chaplin movies, and Double Shot - marimba and vibraphone duo with Yoshiko Tsuruta.