Michael Jamieson - Saxophone

Michael is one of New Zealand's most sought after saxophonists. He started playing saxophone at age 14 and completed his studies at Victoria University (Bachelor of Music) and Massey University (Honours, 1st class). He received a Massey University Cultural Award, a grant from Creative NZ, and the prestigious Patricia Pratt Music Scholarship, enabling him to undertake Masters study with Johan van der Linden at the Messiaen Academie in the Netherlands.

During his study at the Messiaen Academie, Michael also received lessons from Arno Bornkamp, Niels Bijl and Willem van Merwijk from the Aurelia Saxophone Quartet. He undertook an exchange for a semester at the Conservatoire National de Région, Strasbourg, France, where he studied with Phillippe Geiss. While in France, Michael participated in masterclasses and performances with Etienne Rolin, Elipsos Saxophone Quartet and Jean-Marie Londeix. Michael also took lessons from Claude Delangle, Christian Wirth, Vincent David and Philippe Bracquart at the French Saxophone Summer School at Gap.

Michael is in demand as an orchestral and chamber saxophonist, working regularly with groups such as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Radio Chamber Orchestra (NL) and Netherlands Symphony Orchestra. He is the soprano saxophonist and founding member of the Hanumi Saxophone Quartet, and member of the Four Baritones and Rata Trio and ASaxQ.

Michael is the saxophone section leader of the Royal NZ Navy Band and teaches classical saxophone performance at Auckland University School of Music. Michael is a D'Addario Woodwinds (reeds) and Selmer-Paris (saxophones and mouthpieces) performing artist.

Justus Rozemond – Clarinet

Justus studied clarinet at the New Zealand School of Music with Debbie Rawson and Phil Green. He frequently performed in chamber groups in the Wellington area, in particular championing contemporary music. In Tauranga he has performed solo bass clarinet recitals and playing chamber music as part of the Rata Trio and as a guest player with the Tori Trio. He also is a regular clarinet player in Opus Orchestra. Tauranga audience will recognise Justus as the conductor of the Bay of Plenty Symphonia and Youth Philharmonic Tauranga.

Yoshi Tsuruta - Marimba

Starting at the age of 9, Yoshiko Tsuruta learned Marimba privately from Yukiko Sano in Japan. After relocating to New Zealand in 2004, she graduated from the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington in music performance in 2010, having studied under Bruce McKinnon, Laurence Reese, Bud Jones and Jeremy Fitzsimons. She moved to Austria in 2010 and has completed her Master's Degree (1st Class) at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität in Linz. There she studied marimba with Bogdan Bacanu and percussion with Leonhard Schmidinger. Yoshiko has won several prizes both in Japan and New Zealand, including the 1st prizes in both the New Zealand School of Music Concerto Competition and the New Zealand National Concerto Competition, and the Brass/Percussion Prize in Gisborne Competition. In 2012, she reached the semi-final of the International Marimba Competition in Salzburg.

As a soloist, Yoshiko has performed in several concertos on marimba with different orchestras, including Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and St Matthew's Chamber orchestra (Auckland). She was the principal Percussion of the National Youth Orchestra in 2008 and is currently the principal timpanist of Opus Orchestra.

Since returning from Europe Yoshiko endeavours to promote the Marimba and other orchestral Percussion in New Zealand, especially in solo and chamber music performance, while giving focus on arranging new repertoire for marimba. She gives solo performances as well as chamber music with various artists, including 'Rata Trio', consists of Saxophone, Bass Clarinet and Marimba. Yoshiko also teaches privately and at her own class, and gives master classes/workshops on different occasions, such as the National Brass Band Championships, where she was the jury for the percussion solo/ensemble section (2013).

Andrzej Nowicki - Clarinet

After studying clarinet under Debbie Rawson and Phil Green at NZSM, André completed postgraduate studies in composition under Ross Edwards at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2017. André was a co-founder and director of the Wellington-based new music collective SMP Ensemble from 2008 and his works have been performed and broadcast in several countries. Recent collaborations included 'Sacred Glaciers' for Mongolian throat singer Bukhu Ganburged, premiered by Professor John Lynch and the Sydney Conservatorium Wind Ensemble, a NZ tour of a new percussion work for Yoshiko Tsuruta and Australian, Canadian and NZ premieres of 'Rarájipari' for wind ensemble commissioned by Dr Stephen Capaldo.