

## Jeremy Ruthrauff

### Saxophonist

**Jeremy Ruthrauff** is a saxophonist, composer and teacher based in the Chicago area. He is active in the concert, jazz and experimental music arenas. His solo repertoire includes classical works by composers such as J. S. Bach and Robert Schumann, pieces from the early twentieth century such as those by Claude Debussy, Paul Hindemith and Heitor Villa-Lobos, and newer pieces by Luciano Berio, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Toru Takemitsu, Philip Glass and Steve Reich among others. He has commissioned and premiered numerous new works by leading composers including a sonata by the Pulitzer Prize winning composer John Harbison. He recently performed the Chicago premiere of Louis Andriessen's *Hout (Wood)* at the Harris Center for Music and Dance, and was the soloist in the Chicago premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Release* given by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra New Music Ensemble at Orchestra Hall. He performed the Chicago premieres of John Adams' *Nixon in China* with the Chicago Opera Theatre and Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Shulamit Ran's composition *Under the Sun's Gaze* with the Callisto Ensemble. He performed the Chicago premiere of Franco Donatoni's concertino *Hot* for solo saxophone with ensemble at Millennium Park's Harris Theatre for Music and Dance with the Fulcrum Point New Music Project. His solo programs often feature works from outside the traditional "concert" arena such as those by the great tango composer Astor Piazzolla, traditional Japanese shakuhachi pieces, compositions by jazz saxophonist Phil Woods, avant-garde jazz master Eric Dolphy's alto solo on *Tenderly*, and John Coltrane compositions. Ruthrauff's original solo compositions seek to utilize extensions of the solo saxophone such as multiphonics and circular breathing as means of expression. Larger scale pieces integrate these ideas with other performers and make use of improvised languages. He frequently performs concerts of entirely improvised music. His solo alto saxophone composition *Circuits* was recently selected to be presented on a joint concert sponsored by the American Composers Forum and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. A performance of an original solo composition *Gifts to Make Children of the Seers* led Chicago Reader critic John Corbett to write:

*...a recent solo slot on a mixed bill totally turned me on my ear. Ruthrauff's control of the horn, particularly the full range of harmonics, was uncanny; he played blocks of multiphonics effortlessly, creating the illusion of multiple lines moving through chords, a full-fledged pseudopolyphony. And he did this with enough warmth to keep from turning into a nerdy technician...*

Ruthrauff's freelance work has included performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra New Music Ensemble (MusicNow), the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago's Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Opera Theatre, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Contemporary Chamber Players (Contempo), and Fulcrum Point New Music Project among others. He has given solo and chamber music performances at prestigious venues such as Merkin Hall in New York City, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, Harris Theatre for Music and Dance in Chicago, the Performing Arts Chicago Series, Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, the Renaissance Society, and has appeared as a featured soloist with the Contemporary Chamber Players. He is a founding member of the Vision Saxophone Quartet (which has presented many world, U.S. and Chicago premieres of works by leading composers such as Xenakis, Donatoni, and Cage), and is a current member of the improvisational ensemble Walleye. He is a co-founder of Ensemble Mobius Midicus, which pursues the development of electro-acoustic and interactive computer music. Ruthrauff also leads a jazz trio, which performs, in diverse venues throughout the Chicago area. His interest in cross-disciplinary performance has led to collaborations with the Chicago based performance ensembles Red Moon Theatre, Theatre Oobleck, Abiogenesis, Kinetic Delta Cor, and the French composer/visual artist Etienne Rolin. He has presented recitals and performances throughout the United States and in Europe, and has won prizes in numerous solo and chamber music competitions including the Houston Symphony Orchestra solo artist competition, Carmel International Chamber music competition, Performers of Connecticut solo competition, the Ohio Young Artists' competition, and the Northwestern University concerto competition.

He has released a recording with the Vision Saxophone Quartet entitled *Conicality*, which includes the music of Iannis Xenakis, Franco Donatoni, Lukas Foss, Samuel Adler, M. William Karlins, Rudolph Bubalo, and Robert Steel. He also appears on Gastr del Sol's Drag City Records release *Upgrade and Afterlife*, a cd of Michael Zerang's music from the production of *Frankie and Johnny* and has released a recording of his original solo compositions entitled *Alchemy*. He appears on bassist Michael Cameron's cd *Sound Bites* with the ensemble Walleye. He will record Shulamit Ran's *Under the Sun's Gaze* for a Cd to be released in 2007. He has had radio broadcasts in Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, and other cities.

A prolific teacher, he has given master classes at institutions such as the New England Conservatory of Music, American Composers' Forum, University of Illinois, Depaul University and others. He is a clinician for the Selmer Company, and he recently participated in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's program *Armonia* at the National Museum of Mexican Art introducing music to children of the Pilsen little village area. He currently teaches at Concordia University, North Park University, Harper College, the Lake Forest Symphony Music School, the First Conservatory of Music and the Music Arts School. He received his B.M. in music performance from Northwestern University where he studied with the world-renowned concert saxophonist Frederick Hemke. Other teachers have included John Sampen, Paul Bro, Kenneth Radnofsky, James Umble and master classes with Jean-Marie Londeix and Claude Delangle. He studied jazz improvisation with Tony Mujica.