



Todd Wilkinson – Saxophonist and Composer
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Artist's Statement:

I perform on soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones. I am inspired by saxophone history, and try to honor the saxophone tradition in my own playing. I perform with all of the cogency, urgency, and passion I can muster. My compositions display a reasoned balance of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form, a combination of logic and style, and at their best, achieve a satisfying balance between unity and variety.

For me jazz improvisation is like sailing, wherein what I've already played is the rudder of the boat, a very recent past that is influencing what I'm playing at the moment, wherein attention is given mostly to trimming the sails and maintaining the course forward. The inspiration of the tune provides the wind in my sails and the contributions of my fellow musicians is akin to the unpredictable nature of the waves and currents around me.

As a performer of classic music I enjoy the technical challenge of preparing a performance and am fascinated by interpretation. I love to investigate the history and significance of the work and the composer, and endeavor to realize the musical conception of the composer while retaining my own musical self-identity.