

Saxophone History Timeline 1814-1995

- 1814 - Antoine-Joseph (Adolphe) Sax born 6 November, Dinant, Belgium, studies instrument-making with his father, Charles- Joseph (1791-1865)
- 1834 - Adolphe Sax perfects bass-clarinet
- 1842 - Arrives in Paris
- 1842 - 12 June--Sax's close friend Hector Berlioz writes article in Paris magazine Journal des Debats describing Sax's newest invention--the saxophone
- 1844 - Saxophone exhibited for first time at Paris Industrial Exhibition
- 1844 - 3 February--Berlioz conducts concert which features an arrangement of his choral work Chant Sacre which includes saxophone
- 1844 - December--Saxophone makes its orchestral debut in Georges Kastner's opera Last King of Juda ; Paris Conservatory
- 1845 - Sax re-tools military band by replacing oboe bassoons, and french horns with saxhorns in Bb and Eb, producing a more homogenous sound, his idea is a success
- 1845 - Georges Kastner--Variations Faciles et Brillante for solo saxophone; Sextour for 2 soprano, alto, bass and contrabass saxophones
- 1846 - Sax granted patent for saxophone
- 1847 - 14 February--Saxophone school set up at "Gymnase Musical"--a military band school in Paris
- 1858 - Sax becomes Professor of Saxophone at Paris Conservatory
- 1858 -Jean-Baptiste Singelee (b. Brussels 1812-d. Ostend 1875)--writes first two Paris Conservatory contest solos; Concerto (sop./ten.), Fantaisie (bari.)
- 1861 - Wagner, in lieu of 12 French horns, uses saxophones and saxhorns in the orchestra pit at the premiere of his opera Tannhauser
- 1862 - Jules Demerssemann (b. Belgium 1833, d. Paris 1866)--Fantaisie sur un Theme Originale (ded. to Henri Wuille, alto)
- 1866 Sax patent expires--Millereau Co. patents Saxophone-Millereau, which features a forked F# key

1867 - Nazaire Beeckman becomes Professor of Saxophone at Brussels Conservatory

1868 - Gautrot, Pierre Louis & Co.--devises screw-in pad system and mechanism inside pad cup to keep outside of pad flat

1871 - Gustav Poncelet becomes Professor of Saxophone at Brussels Conservatory after Beeckman

1873 - American bandleader Patrick Gilmore (1829-1892) uses the saxophone in military bands for first time in New York City

1875 - Goumas--patented saxophone with fingering system similar to Boehm system clarinet

1877 - Hyacinthe Klose--Methode Complete de Saxophone Klose--Methode Elementaire (alto/tenor)

1879 - Klose--Methode Elementaire (baritone) Georges Bizet--L'Arlesienne suites no 1&2

1881 -Klose--Methode Elementaire (sop.)

1881 - Jules Massenet--Herodiade

1881- Sax extends his original patent--lengthens bell to include low Bb and A; also extends upward range to F# and G with use of fourth octave key

1885 - First saxophone built in U.S. from Sax patent by Gus Buescher

1886 Association Des Ouvriers--devise right hand C trill key, and a half-hole system for first fingers of left and right hands.

1887 - Association Des Ouvriers--invent tuning ring, and precursor of articulated G#Evette and Schaeffer---improve on articulated G# so that G# key can be held down while any finger of the right hand is being used, improved forked F#, invented bis key, added low Bb

1888 - Lecomte--invents single octave key, rollers for low Eb-C

1892 - Jules Massenet--Werther

1894 - Sax dies

1896 - Eugene Coffin plays on earliest Columbia saxophone recordings.

1897 - Creation of Storyville.

1901 - January 29, Charles Loeffler's Divertissement espanol is premiered by Elise Hall in Boston's Copley Hall. (First piece ever to be commissioned by E. Hall)

1901 - Elise Hall commissions Rapsodie from Claude Debussy.

1903 - Symphonia Domestica by Richard Strauss. Score includes saxophones: Sopr., alto, bari., bass.

1903 - Elise Hall commissions Choral Varie by Vincent D'Indy.

1904 - January 4, premiere of Choral Varie by E. Hall in Copley Hall, Boston.

1904 - March 21, first American performance of Symphonia Domestica in Carnegie Hall, New York City.

1906 - January 2, Elise Hall premieres Legend for saxophone and orchestra by Georges Sprok.

1908 - Paul de Ville's Universal Method for saxophone first published by Carl Fisher.

1911 - H. Benne Henton becomes first American to play altissimo notes in solo performance. (cadenza in Eleven O'clock)

1911 - Henri Woollett's Siberia - Poeme Symphonique is premiered by Elise Hall.

1911 - Tom Brown and the Brown brothers saxophone sextet popularize saxophone with American public with recordings of such songs as: Bullfrog Blues, Chicken Walk, etc.

1914 - First appearances of saxophone in jazz bands. (Sam Dutry, John Joseph, Luis Russell, Paul Barnes)

1916 - Rudy Wiedoeft makes his first saxophone record.

1916 - Charles Ives writes saxophone part in Symphony No. 4.

1917 - Benjamin Vereecken's Foundation of Saxophone Playing published by Carl Fisher.

1918 - Percy Grainger uses saxophone for the first time in composing in two compositions: Over the hills and far away, and Children's March. (Sopr., alto, tenor, bari., bass)

1919 - March 11, premiere of Debussy's Rapsodie.

1922 - Saxophone used in Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. (arr. Ravel)

1923 - Rhapsodie in Blue by George Gershwin (2 altos, tenor)

1923 - Darius Milhaud first writes for saxophone in La creation du mooned.

1926 - Puccini's Turandot includes saxophone part in score.

1926 - January 31, first performance of serious saxophone literature in New York City's Aeolian Hall by Jascha Gurewich (1896-1938).

1927 - Ravel uses saxophone in his Bolero (sopranissimo, soprano,tenor).

1927 - Job Ralph Vaughn Williams (alto)

1927 - April 22, Earliest known American performance of Debussy's Rapsodie.

1928 - An American in Paris George Gershwin (alto,tenor, bari).

1928 - First Symphony Aaron Copland (alto)

1928 - Marcel Mule establishes quartet along with members of the Garde Republicaine de Paris.

1929 - Sigrfid Karg-Elert (1877-1933) composes 25 Caprices for Saxophone

1932 - Glazounov composes Quatour Op. 109 for Marcel Mule's quartet.

1932 - Harvey Pittel is born on June 22.

1932 - Eugene Rousseau is born in Blue Island, Illinois on August 23.

1932 - Jean-Marie Londeix is born in Libourne, France on September 20.

1935 - Fredrick Hemke is born on July 11.

1935 - Marcel Mule premieres Pierre Vellones' Concerto on November 16.

1935 - Sigurd Rascher premieres (in entirety) Concertino da Camera, by Jacques Ibert, on December 11.

1936 - Eugene Bozza composes Aria for alto saxophone.

1937 - Cecil Leeson gives first performance of the Glazunov Concerto on February 5.

1937 - Larry Teal premieres the Bernard Heiden Sonata on April 8.

1937 - Donald Sinta born in Detroit on June 16.

1937 - James M. Stoltie born in Galesburg, Ill. on July 10.

1938 - Jascha Gurewich dies (known as composer of various saxophone works).

1939 - Jamey Aebersold is born on July 21 (known as a jazz pedagogue and influential to jazz saxophone practice techniques, as well as other instruments).

1939 - Arnold Brillhart begins design and production of mouthpieces (also known as a jazz saxophonist).

1939 - Paul Creston composes Sonata for alto saxophone and piano.

1939 - Paul Hindemith composes Sonata for alto saxophone and piano.

1940 - Saxophonist Rudy Wiedoeft dies in Queens, NY on February 18

1941 - Paul Creston composes Concerto for alto sax and orchestra.

1941 - Top Tones, by Sigurd Rascher is released as a supplemental study to saxophone altissimo register.

1942 - Stan Getz (1927-1991) begins playing as a professional jazz saxophonist.

1942 - Tenor saxophonist James Houlik is born in Bay Shore, NY on December 4.

1942 - Pierre Lantier composes Andante et Scherzetto for saxophone quartet.

1942 - Marcel Mule is appointed Professor of Saxophone at the Paris Conservatory.

1943 - 18 Berbiguer Exercises is published by Marcel Mule.

1943 - Alexandre Tcherepnine composes Sonatine Sportive.

1944 - Eugene Bozza publishes Improvisation et Caprice for solo saxophone (used for different instruments previously).

1946 - 48 Ferling Etudes is reissued through Marcel Mule.

1947 - Jazz saxophonist Jan Garbarek is born in Norway.

1948 - Japanese saxophonist and composer Ryo Noda is born in Amagasaki, Japan on October 17.

1948 - Heitor Villa-Lobos composes Fantasia Op. 630 for Marcel Mule.

1949 - Jazz saxophonists Gerry Mulligan and Lee Konitz are released along with other artists on Miles Davis' album Birth of the Cool.

1950 - Professor of Saxophone at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Lynn Klock is born on August 12.

1951 - Rueff Concerto is premiered in the Solos de Concours in Paris.

1953 - Daniel Deffayet debuts as saxophone soloist (becomes Professor of Saxophone at the Paris Conservatory in 1968).

1953 - Larry Teal is appointed as Professor of Saxophone at the University of Michigan at Dearborn.

1954 - Jean-Marie Londeix premieres Jeux de Table, by Andre Ameller, in February.

1955 - Charlie "Bird" Parker dies in New York City on March 12

1956 - Alfred Desenclos composes Prelude, Cadence, et Finale for the Solos de Concours.

1956 - Pierre-Max Dubois Sonate composed for Daniel Deffayet.

1956 - Dubois also composes Quatour for SATB saxophone quartet.

1956 - Frederick Hemke is first saxophonist to win Premier Prix de Saxophone at the Paris Conservatory.

1956 - Laura Hunter is born on June 13 (student of Donald Sinta and Jean-Marie Londeix).

1956 - The Selmer Mark VI Saxophone begins to be produced.

1957 - Album, Saxophone Collosus released with jazz tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins.

1958 - John Coltrane is jazz tenor saxophonist and quartet leader on the album, Giant Steps.

1958 - Erland Von Koch composes Concerto for alto saxophone and orchestra.

1959 - "Take Five," a Paul Desmond jazz composition, is released on the album featuring the Dave Brubeck Quartet, Time Out.

1959 - Jean-Marie Londeix premieres Concerto, by Pierre-Max Dubois, in Bordeaux on October 9.

1959 - Paule Maurice composes Tableaux de Provence for alto saxophone.

1959 - Jazz tenor saxophonist Lester Young dies in New York on March 15.

1960 - Joe Lulloff Born

1961 - Feb 2, Percy Grainger dies

1961 - Walter Hartley's Petite Suite written for Hemke

1962 - Eugene Rousseau studies with Mule

1962 - John David Lamb's Six Barefoot Dances written for Rascher

1963 - The Art of Saxophone Playing published (Teal)

1963 - Fred Hemke appointed to Northwestern staff

1963 - Everett Gates writes Incantation and Ritual for Carina Rascher

1964 - Jacobi Sonata written for Rascher

1964 - Coltrane's A Love Supreme issued

1965 - N. Brightman premieres B. Tuthill's Concerto for Tenor Sax.

1967 - July 17 Trane Died

1967 - DiPasquale Sonata published (Southern Mus.)

1967 - Walter Hartley writes Poem for Houlik (tenor)

1967 - Hartley Sonatina published for tenor sax (for Jim Houlik)

1968 - Mule retires from Paris Conservatoire

1968 - Leslie Bassett's Music for Saxophone and Piano published.

1968 - Stoltie hired at SUNY Potsdam

1969 - Rascher Saxophone Quartet formed - Sigurd and Carina Rascher, Bruce Weinberger and Linda Bangs.

1969 - M.W. Karlins Music for Tenor Sax written for Hemke

1969 - Bernard Heiden Solo written for Rousseau

1969 - May 19 Coleman Hawkins died

1969 December - 1st World Saxophone Congress Meeting, Chicago; organized by Brodie/Rousseau.

1970 - December - Trent Kynaston premieres Muczynski's Sonata, op. 29

1970 - Second World Saxophone Congress Meeting, Chicago

1971 - Beginning Studies in Altissimo by Rosemary Lang Published (rev.1978)

1971 - Ryo Noda writes Improvisation 1 for JM Londeix

1971 - Saxophone Concertos (Eugene Rousseau) record issued

1971 - Third WSC meeting in Toronto

1972 - Ryo Noda writes Improvisation 2

1972 - William Duckworth writes Pitt County Excursions for Jim Houlik (tenor)

1972 - Daily Studies for the Development of Saxophone technique published (Teal)

1973 - Ryo Noda writes Improvisation 3

1973 - Denisov Sonata written

1973 - Nov. 8, Harvey Pittel makes Carnegie Hall debut

1973 - Fourth WSC meeting in Brodeaux

1974 - Larry Teal retires from University of Michigan - Sinta takes over

1975 - Milhaud died

1974 - Fourth World Saxophone Congress in Bordeaux (Londeix)

1975 - Cannonball Adderly died

1976 - Creston Rapsodie premiereed at World Saxophone Congress by JM Londeix

1976 - R. Caravan's Paradigms I published.

1976 - Mark VII introduced with standard High F# key

1976 - Selmer's square-chamber mouthpieces marketed

1977 - May 30, Desmond died

1977 - Rascher's last performance

1977 - March 8, Lynn Klock premieres Hartley's Sonata for Baritone Sax and Piano.

1978 - Gunther Schuller arranges Tribute to Rudy Wiedoeft

1978 - Houlik performs in Carnegie Hall

1978 - Merle Johnston dies (revolutionized pedagogy in US)

1979 - Frackenpohl's Air for Alto written for Jim Stoltie

1979 - James Forger premieres John Anthony Lennon's Distances Within Me.

1979 - Hartley Sonata Published (for Jim Houlik) - tenor

1980 - Phil Woods Sonata (Kendor)

1980 - Yamaha introduces 62 series

1981 - Selmer S80 introduced

1981 - Frackenpohl's Dorian Elegy written for Stoltie

1981 - Nov. 1 Trent Kynaston premieres Muczynski's Concerto, op 41

1981 - Rascher retires

1981 - Houlik performs in Alice Tully Hall

1982 - Claude Delangle becomes Professor at the CNRM for Boulogne-Billancourt

1982 - Saxophone Sinfonia appears in Alice Tully hall (Bilger, D. dir.)

1982 - seventh WSC - in Nuremburg, Germany

1984 - William Albright Sonata written for J. Wytko, D. Sinta and L. Hunter

1984 - Larry Teal dies

1984 - Jim Houlik premieres Schmidt Sonata (tenor)

1985 - Joe Lulloff makes Carnegie Hall debut - Jan. 15

1985 - Laura Hunter premieres William Albright's Sonata

1986 - Selmer Super Action 80 series 2 introduced

1991 - Stan Getz dies

1995 - Londeix performs farewell concert