

THE ELISION SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Todd Oxford
Soprano & Alto

Colin Mason
Alto

Robert Medina
Tenor

Billy Jon McPhail
Baritone

LIVE Through The Years represents the peak of our live recordings spanning the period of time between 1991-2001. The music on this CD embodies what we as a quartet feel to be the special "gems" featured in our concerts throughout these years. The tracks were carefully selected from hours upon hours of live recordings. The result of this process left us with a product containing the most fun, exciting, eclectic, and heartfelt moments from our varied repertoire. The music was recorded in numerous locations and was originally preserved on source media ranging from reel tape, cassette tape, digital audio tape, and compact disc. This recording is an honest representation of the Elision Saxophone Quartet live show where the group shares the saxophone's amazing versatility by presenting an entertaining variety of musical styles in hopes of including something special for everyone.

The Quartet extends special words of thanks to John Ailee, Maestro Paul Olefsky, Andy Murphy, the Texas Commission On the Arts, and especially our families for believing in us.



Colin Mason - Lead Alto - Track 5

Alto II - Track 19

Billy Jon McPhail - Baritone - Tracks 3, 5, 10, 19, 21, 22

Robert Medina - Lead Alto - Track 9

Alto II - Track 21

Alto - Tracks 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23

Tenor - Tracks 5, 16, 19

Javier Oviedo - Soprano - Tracks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23

Lead Alto - Track 11

Alto II - Tracks 9, 18, 20

Tenor - Tracks 3, 10, 21, 22

Todd Oxford - Soprano - Tracks 10 & 22

Lead Alto - Tracks 3, 19, 21

Alto II - Track 5

Baritone - Tracks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23

David Reed - Tenor - Tracks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23

Todd Yukumoto - Lead Alto - Tracks 18, 20

Alto - Tracks 1, 2, 8, 16

Producer: Todd Oxford

Executive Producer: Michael W. Udow

Assembled, engineered, and digitally mastered by Andy Murphy.

Recorded live in performance. This CD contains no re-takes, overdubs, or mixing.

Percussion tracks programmed by Robert Medina.

Photography: Brenda Ladd

"The Rose" created by Chris Koury

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TODD OXFORD

Soprano & Alto



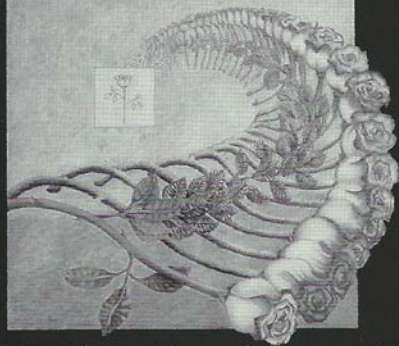
In increasing demand as a soloist and chamber musician, Todd Oxford has toured from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Bangkok, Thailand to Lisbon, Portugal, and throughout 46 of the 50 states. His virtuosity as a performer and recording artist extend to the Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophones. Recent engagements include Carnegie Hall, solo recitals at the University of Hawaii, California State University at Los Angeles, Southwest Texas State University, Georgia's Spivey Hall, the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention, the Texas Commission On the Arts Touring Artists Convention, and the national anthem for the Round Rock Express Baseball Team. Mr. Oxford began studying the saxophone at age 13 and went on to

receive many young artist awards while pursuing advanced degree work at the University of Texas at Austin. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in 2001.

Todd Oxford is a founding member and the soprano/alto saxophonist with the Elision Saxophone Quartet. The group has entertained in a variety of live radio, concert, and festival settings since 1990. The quartet won the First Annual Tablerock Invitational Music Festival Competition and tour under the auspices of the Texas Commission On the Arts Touring Artists Roster. Mr. Oxford was invited to join the Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet in 1988 and performed as the baritone saxophonist with the group until 2001. The HPSQ presented concerts in affiliation with Columbia Artists Management, Midwest Arts Alliance, the Texas Commission On the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington D.C., Honolulu, Sacramento (CA), Rochester (MN), and Dallas (TX) to name a few. In addition, the quartet performed on hundreds of university/college campuses, radio/television programs, orchestral pops series, and as featured artists with wind ensembles.

Todd Oxford has been involved in world premiers and collaborations with prominent composers, performers, and conductors such as Robert Spano, Gunther Schuller, Karel Husa, Warren Benson, David Maslanka, Michael Daugherty, Michael Colgrass, Jerry Junkin, Frederick Fennell, Donald Grantham, Dan Welcher, Warren Barker, Oliver Knussen, Daron Aric Hagen, Shulamit Ran, Robert Xavier Rodriguez, David Holsinger, Allen Vizutti, Jeff Tyzik, Julie Budd, Kenny Rogers, and the Manhattan Transfer. He may be heard as a featured artist on a number of recordings available on the Mark Custom Recording Label by ensembles such as the Harvey Pittel Saxophone Quartet, the TEX-SAX Saxophone Ensemble, the United States Air Force Band of the West, and the University of Texas Wind Ensemble. His solo CD, *Finesse*, is available on the Equilibrium record label and is distributed nationally by Albany Music Distribution.

Mr. Oxford has received many performance awards to include the Dallas Concerto Competition First Prize, Best Instrumental Collaborator (Sidney Wright Award), the University of Texas Concerto Competition, and was recently a finalist in both the Coleman Chamber Music Competition and the Roy Crane Award for Excellence in Music. His teaching affiliations have included the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and the Leander, Texas Independent School District. He is currently the saxophone instructor at Southwest Texas State University, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Temple College, and the Pflugerville, Texas Independent School District.



The Elision Saxophone Quartet

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COLIN MASON

Alto



Colin Mason is currently The Director of Jazz Studies and Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Prior to this appointment, he was the Acting Coordinator of Jazz Studies at The University of New Hampshire. Mr. Mason is active as a free-lance saxophonist, and has performed across the country with his own ensemble as well as with such popular superstar performers as The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Milton Berle, Red Buttons, Henny Youngman, and Percy Sledge. In addition, he has performed with major jazz artists such as Clark Terry, George Shearing, Michael Brecker, James Moody, Don Menza, Christian McBride, and Bill Watrous.

Mr. Mason is the founder and leader of The Southwest Horns, a jazz saxophone ensemble comprised of university jazz educators across the country dedicated to performing original jazz compositions written expressly for the group. Colin Mason earned a Master of Music in Saxophone Performance at Northern Arizona University, and a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies at San Diego State University.

He is currently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Music Education with a Jazz Emphasis at The University of Texas at Austin. This season is his second as the Alto Saxophonist with the Elision Saxophone Quartet, with performances pending at the Dell Jewish Community Center, Texas A&M University, and Del Mar College.

ROBERT MEDINA

Tenor



Robert Medina is a founding member of The Elision Saxophone Quartet. During his tenure with the group, he has performed in both the Alto and Tenor chairs. Other responsibilities within ESQ include arranging numerous works for the quartet's repertoire. Mr. Medina's undergraduate music studies began at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, TX, where his principal saxophone instructor was Professor William Lipman. While at Del Mar College, he earned first place honors in the school's concerto competition for two consecutive years, and first place honors in the composition contest for two consecutive years. Fluent in the jazz arena, Bob Medina was principal tenor saxophonist with the Del Mar College Jazz ensemble that performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland.

His principal jazz instructors include Eddie Galvan and Chester Rupe. Mr. Medina has performed with saxophonists Lou Marini and Arnett Cobb, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Jay and the Americans, the Eddie Galvan Orchestra, the Bob Meyer Big Band, Dudley Moore, the Corpus Christi Symphony, Allen Vizutti, and Bob Mintzer.

After transferring to The University of Texas at Austin, Bob Medina graduated with both a Bachelor of Music Education Degree and a Performance Certificate. His membership in University of Texas Music ensembles included the Longhorn Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble under the direction of Maestro Jerry Junkin, Saxophone Choir TEX-SAX, New Music Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, and Jazz Combos.

Prior to joining the Elision Saxophone Quartet, he completed degree requirements in Radio/Television Communication with an emphasis in broadcast journalism. He spent seven years as a radio personality on WBVH, KERV, KSPL, and KKED. As a music programmer, he worked for corporate giants Marriott Hotel Inc. and Hershey Hotel Inc. Equally versed in television production and film editing, he worked for NBC affiliate KRIS-TV and public television station KEDT-TV.

BILLY JON MCPHAIL

Baritone



Billy McPhail has appeared both as a soloist and as a member of many distinguished ensembles including the University of Texas Wind Ensemble, the Brevard Music Center Wind Ensemble, the Festival Orchestra at the Brevard Music Festival in Brevard, North Carolina, and the Victoria College and Community Band. Mr. McPhail has performed in pit ensembles in such shows as *The WIZ* and *Guys and Dolls*, and the world premier of *Bandana*, an opera by Daron Hagen.

While attending the University of Texas School of Music, Mr. McPhail studied the saxophone with renowned saxophonist Harvey Pittel. He has performed under conductors such as maestro Jerry Junkin, David Efron, and Mitch Miller. He was a member of the Saxophone Ensemble, TEX-SAX, directed by Professor Harvey Pittel.

Mr. McPhail completed the Bachelor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance. He was employed by the University of Texas as a Saxophone and woodwind teacher in the "New Horizons" program. He is currently active as a freelance performer in the Austin, TX area, and is the saxophone instructor for the Leander, TX Independent School District.

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§ Reviews §

"The Elision Saxophone Quartet stole the show . . ."

The San Antonio Express News - San Antonio, TX

"Stellar and Eclectic lineup promised for Austin Chamber Music Marathon . . ."

The Austin American Statesman - Austin, TX

"A Class Act . . ."

Communique - KUT 90.5 FM Public Radio - Austin, TX

"Delightful . . . really exciting . . . a big hit . . . you have four voices, yet you create the whole texture of the orchestral palette . . . they play so beautifully . . .

these people are really good . . ."

John Aielee - Host of Eclecticos - KUT 90.5 FM Public Radio - Austin, TX

". . . ESQ has a tune for everyone."

The Austin Chronicle - Austin, TX

". . . their music really impressed the crowd."

San Antonio Light - San Antonio, TX

"We could have listened all day . . . the audience loved it!"

Robert E. Lee Newsletter - San Antonio, TX

"This group (ESQ) has good credentials and is seasoned enough to play popular or classical. Personally I would drive a hundred miles to hear them play."

B.F. Martin, Jr. - Past President - Longview Symphony Orchestra - Longview, TX

"It's a great sound and great music . . . reminds you of the Big Band Days . . . brings a tear to the eye . . ."

Randy Harriman - KMFA - 89.5 FM - In Performance from Studio 2000 - Austin, TX

"I don't know how much better we can get than these guys."

Elizabeth Fleschler - Cultural Arts Director - Dell Jewish Community Center, Austin, TX

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Since their debut in 1990, the Elision Saxophone Quartet has been exciting audiences in ever increasing numbers throughout the United States. The group's stylistically diverse and virtuosic programs feature the saxophone in an entertaining mixture of Classical, Pop, Jazz, and World Music styles. Listeners will experience the saxophone's incredible versatility via the music of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, the Dixieland, Ragtime, Swing, and Doo-Wop eras, and the driving rhythms inherent in the sounds of Latin America. Works by composers such as J.S. Bach, Glenn Miller, George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, and many more have proven to please the crowds.

ESQ has performed in virtually every conceivable setting to include clubs, hotels, retirement homes, churches, radio stations, festivals, and concert halls. Most recent engagements include billing as featured guest artists with the University of Tennessee at Knoxville Wind Ensemble, the Texas Jazz Festival, San Antonio Annual Holiday Saxophones, Dell Jewish Community Center, Austin Chamber Music Marathon, University of Texas Chancellor's Council, Frank Erwin Center, UT Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, Dell Computer, Austin Steam Train Association, Umlauf Sculpture Garden, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Research Center, inauguration ceremony for Governor George W. Bush, Governor's Mansion for former Governor Ann Richards, and the State Capitol Building for Laura Bush.

The quartet most recently won the grand prize at Tablerock's Invitational Music Festival Competition, while the group currently tours and performs under the auspices of the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Artists Roster. ESQ has been active in Texas live radio for KUT 90.5 and KMFA 89.5. The group has supported benefit organizations such as the Travis County Children's Advocacy Center, United Cerebral Palsy Association, and AIDS Services of Austin among others.