Alexa Tarantino is an award-winning, vibrant, young jazz saxophonist, woodwind doubler, composer, and educator. Alexa's *"exquisite soloing that is fresh, inspired, and original,"* (Paul Rauch, *All About Jazz)* establishes her individual voice which shines through as a dynamic performer and educator.

Tarantino has played prestigious venues such as the Umbria Jazz Festival (with Ryan Truesdell's Gil Evans Project), the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl (with Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra), the Rockport Jazz Festival (Alexa Tarantino Quintet), Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra), and the Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival (with Earth, Wind & Fire, LSAT, and others).

She performs regularly as a leader and sideman in a wide variety of ensembles and genres including Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra (holding a weekly residency at Birdland Jazz Club), LSAT (her new quintet co-led with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevian), and the Alexa Tarantino Quartet.

Tarantino is currently on faculty for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Youth Education Programs and directs one of their High School Jazz Academy big bands. Previously, she served as Jazz Saxophone Instructor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Tarantino continues to visit several colleges, high schools, and summer jazz programs across the globe as a guest clinician, including the Rockport Jazz Workshop (MA), of which she is Founder and Director.

She holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Jazz Saxophone Performance at The Juilliard School. Tarantino is a graduate of Hall High School's award-winning music program in West Hartford, Connecticut and currently resides in New York City.

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