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# ALEXA TARANTINO

## Select Press Quotes

*Saxophonist • Woodwind Doubler • Educator • Composer*

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1. "The Show concluded with a rip-roaring performance of "Rhythm-a-ning" with a carefully crafted alto saxophone solo by **Alexa Tarantino**" • From April 2018 performance with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and Chick Corea • Victor L. Schermer • All About Jazz
2. "The solo that drew the most awestruck applause was from **Alexa Tarantino's** soprano sax, a particularly poignant, emotionally raw salvo." • Cecile McLorin Salvant's & Darcy James Argue's ORGRESSE World Premiere at The MET Museum, NYC September 2018 • reviewed by Lucid Culture
3. "Flux In A Box" reeled with a distinctive-toned alto saxophone solo by **Alexa Tarantino**, who repeatedly showed her primacy in the reed ranks. [...] Tarantino again soloed majestically on "Best Friends Forever." • Secret Society AngraJazz Fall 2018 • Martin Longley • Downbeat Magazine
4. "[The set] featured killer solos from reedist **Alexa Tarantino** [...]. Tarantino, the newest member of DIVA and a recent graduate from the Eastman School of Music, delivered a flowing alto sax solo on a dreamy rendition of Duke Ellington's "Prelude To A Kiss" [...]." • DIVA Jazz Orchestra • Lake George Jazz Festival, September 2016 • Bill Milkowski • Downbeat Magazine
5. **Tarantino** adds a touch of color and intrigue that keeps the listener attached... [she] plays with an edge of originality." • Paul Rauch • All About Jazz
6. "...she blew the crowd away soloing with Earth, Wind, & Fire" • From the 2014 Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival • Ron Netsky • CITY Newspaper
7. "**Tarantino** and Terefenko draw us into their musical conversation - a conversation that is both deep and lyrical. This is music that bears repeated listening." • On *Crossing Paths* • Dave Rivello • Assistant Professor, Eastman School of Music/composer and bandleader
8. "In *Crossing Paths* (Tarantino/Terefenko) the musical investigations of **Alexa** and Dariusz are revealed, engaging listeners across many 'boundaries' of musical adventure." • Harold Danko Professor • Eastman School of Music/pianist and composer

9. "On this version [of "Ida Lupino"], by [...] Lioness, [the guitarist paints around] the alto saxophonist **Alexa Tarantino's** dewy, unhurried treatment of the melody." • On *Lioness* • The New York Times • Jon Pareles, Jon Caramanica, Giovanni Russonello • March 8, 2019
10. "If there's a line to hang over this release, it's I am woman hear me roar and rejoice. [...] Opening on drummer Allison Miller's "Mad Time," the three horn front line [including] alto saxophonist **Alexa Tarantino** [...] gleefully marches and swoops atop Miller's street grooves." • On *Lioness* • All About Jazz • Dan Bilawsky • February 21, 2019
11. "With **Tarantino** storming out of the gate on "Overcooked" with her rapidly developing rhythmic articulation escaping the post Charlie Parker/Cannonball Adderley legacy. While expressing an original, modern approach, her playing abounds in a free flowing abridgment to modern swing rhythms." • on *Something Blue: Maximum Enjoyment* • All About Jazz • March 14, 2019
12. "Carla Bley's dreamy Latin-tinged bolero, "Ida Lupino," a showcase for **Tarantino's** soaring alto work. [...] For sheer chops, there's Tarantino's runaway burner "Hurry Up and Wait," featuring blazing solos from a lot and baritone saxes." • On *Lioness* • Paste Magazine • Bill Milkowski • April 17, 2019