

Alexa Tarantino is an award-winning, vibrant, young jazz saxophonist, woodwind doubler, composer, and educator. Alexa's "lovely, ardent way of improvising," and "sharply plotted but gracefully unencumbered straight-ahead jazz [compositions]" (Giovanni Russonello, *The New York Times*) establish 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 sidewoman 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), Cécile McLorin Salvant's OGRESSE and Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, LSAT (her new quintet co-led with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevian), and the Alexa Tarantino Quartet. Tarantino is an artist on the Posi-Tone Records label. Her debut quartet record on Posi-Tone, *Winds of Change*, released late-May 2019 featuring Christian Sands (piano), Joe Martin (bass), and Rudy Royston (drums), with Nick Finzer (trombone).

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 a master's degree in Jazz Studies from The Juilliard School and bachelor's degrees in Jazz Saxophone Performance and Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. 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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