
ALEXA TARANTINO

Select Performance Videos

Saxophonist • Woodwind Doubler • Educator • Composer

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
13. "**Tarantino's** solo is a model for many young (and not so young) saxophonists—it's an uptempo piece and she scorches, but also modulates the tempo frequently, blazing at different temperatures but also knowing when to pull back." [...] "As debut discs go, "Winds of Change" is a nice summary of what Tarantino can do and a peek of future glories." • on *Winds of Change* • *The New York City Jazz Record* • Mark Keresman • May 2019
14. "Both as a player and a teacher, **Alexa Tarantino** is leading the charge for a more inclusive jazz scene." [...] "The just-released quartet record spotlights Tarantino's elegant composing and arranging style, as well as her collaborative finesse." • *JazzTimes Magazine* • Lucy Tauss • June 2019
15. "Alto saxophonist **Alexa Tarantino** is highly sought after in the New York jazz scene for her high-voltage, expressive sound." [...] "As memorable as all these tunes are, it's a good bet Tarantino has even more up her sleeve." • *New York Music Daily & Lucid Culture* • Delarue • edited May 20, 2019
16. "**Tarantino's** forthcoming debut album, "Winds of Change," announces this young alto saxophonist as a composer of sharply plotted but gracefully unencumbered straight-ahead jazz and [...] an announcement of her lovely, ardent way of improvising." • *The New York Times* • Giovanni Russonello • May 23, 2019
17. "**Ms. Tarantino** plays with authority and assurance throughout - she is certainly ready to be a leader." • *Step Tempest* • Richard B. Kamins • May 28, 2019

18. "Tarantino's tone on alto has a pleasantly soft timbre but ting with a tasty bite around the edges." [...] "Alexa Tarantino is choosing to show off something rarer: connection and chemistry with her band." • *PopMatters* • Will Layman • May 29, 2019
19. "So far this has been a good year for the visibility of winning young saxophonist named Alexa Tarantino [...] Her delivery of the melody fairly recalls an alto precursor like Art Pepper, though Tarantino is hardly interested in impersonation." • *WBGO: Take Five* • Nate Chinen • May 26, 2019
20. "Despite possessing an increasingly impressive resume, saxophonist Alexa Tarantino projects an air of humility and seems intent on giving back as much knowledge, support, and inspiration as she's received. [...] Tarantino displays clear aptitude when it comes to figuring out how to wrangle the scholastic, professional, and shared spaces of jazz." • *Downbeat Magazine* • Kira Grunenberg • June 6, 2019
21. "The just-released quartet record spotlights Tarantino's elegant composing and arranging style, as well as her collaborative finesse." • *Downbeat Magazine* • Lucy Tauss • June 7, 2019
22. "It is time we stop referring to saxophonist Alexa Tarantino as one of the "on the rise" young starts in jazz. She has arrived, and by the sounds of things, she is here to stay. [...] While the pieces are well-crafted, and the playing exquisite, the most memorable melodies are more contained within the probing, image conjuring solos provided by Tarantino." • *All About Jazz on Winds of Change* • Paul Rauch • June 10, 2019
23. "Coming at her music with an impressive embrace of style and tradition, and blending a natural youthful inquisitiveness and confidence to make the music her own, saxophonist-flautist and full-of-flair composer Alexa Tarantino (...) makes big strides towards the limelight on her Posi-Tone Records debut as leader with the restorative and percolating *Winds of Change*." • *All About Jazz* • Mike Jurkovic • August 8, 2019
24. "What she readily admits was her first ever composition, the shuffling, bossa tinged 'Square One' again teams (Christian) Sands and Tarantino so easily, so artfully and tunefully that you wish the song never ended." • *All About Jazz* • Mike Jurkovic • August 8, 2019
25. "Led by Alexa Tarantino, one of jazz's most exciting and versatile rising stars, the series will explore practical ways to become a more comprehensive artist." • *Broadway World* • BWW News Desk • May 6, 2020
26. "Alexa Tarantino excels at marketing in addition to her playing. She has an intelligence and she applies that intelligence. She will create a lot of change." • Wynton Marsalis on what it takes to sustain your career • *Wednesdays With Wynton* • May 6, 2020
27. "There's no sophomore jinx with this second disc from Tarantino, and it's a good bet that the third will be even more charmed." • *Downbeat Magazine* • Herb Boyd • July 2020

28. “[Tarantino] is a straight-ahead mainstream player who will continue to grow, but there is no need to wait for her future. Based on the last track [My Ship], **Alexa Tarantino's** ship has sailed.” • *JazzTimes* • Thomas Conrad • July 2020
29. “**Tarantino** [...] lights up rooms when she solos.” • *JazzTimes* • Thomas Conrad • July 2020

Updated 8/06/2020