

“[Alexa is] a one-woman wrecking crew, [...] an indomitable force for expression, education, and absolute excellence.” - Wynton Marsalis, *Managing and Artist Director, Jazz at Lincoln Center*

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]” (*The New York Times*) establish her individual voice which shines through as a dynamic performer and educator. Tarantino was recently named one of the “Top 5 Alto Saxophonists of 2019” by the *JazzTimes* Critics’ Poll. Her debut album, *Winds of Change*, peaked at #15 on the *JazzWeek* Charts and landed at #79 for *JazzWeek’s* Top 100 records of 2019.

She has performed regularly as a leader and sidewoman in a wide variety of ensembles and genres including the Cecile McLorin Salvant Quintet, Cecile McLorin Salvant’s OGRESSE Ensemble, Ulysses Owens Jr.’s Generation Y, LSAT (quintet co-led with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevian), Arturo O’Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, 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, followed by *Clarity* in June 2020. Her most recent record features Steven Feifke (piano), Joe Martin (bass), and Rudy Royston (drums).

Tarantino is currently on faculty for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Youth Programs (High School Jazz Academy, Let Freedom Swing/Jazz for Young People) and represents the organization as a Clinician and Educator for various schools, festivals, and workshops. 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. Alexa is Founder and Director of the Rockport Jazz Workshop in Rockport, Massachusetts and Co-Founder of A Step Ahead Jazz virtual workshop with pianist Steven Feifke.

Alexa Tarantino is a Vandoren Artist and Yamaha Performing Artist.

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[www.rockportmusic.org/jazzworkshop](http://www.rockportmusic.org/jazzworkshop)

[www.astepaheadjazz.com](http://www.astepaheadjazz.com)