



POSI-TONE RECORDS
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Alexa Tarantino biography

"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 and nominated as a "Rising Star - Alto Saxophone" by Downbeat Magazine's 2020 Critics' Poll.

Tarantino has performed regularly as a leader and side musician in a wide variety of ensembles and genres including the Cecile McLorin Salvant Quintet and OGRESSE Ensemble, Ulysses Owens Jr.'s Generation Y, LSAT (a quintet co-led with baritone saxophonist Lauren Sevian), Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and Sherrie Maricle & the DIVA Jazz Orchestra.

Firefly (2021), Tarantino's third record for Posi-Tone, displays her growth in performance and composition. It features the evocative Moment In Time suite, which demonstrates her compositional advancement and wide range of multi-instrument virtuosity. Her previous albums, **Clarity** (Posi-Tone 2019), and **Winds Of Change** (Posi-Tone 2018), were well received and critically acclaimed on both the radio and in the press.

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 with pianist Steven Feifke.