

Freem Saxophone Quartet



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The Freem Saxophone Quartet was founded in 2017 by four Italian saxophonists: Iacopo Sammartano, Riccardo Guazzini, Michele Bianchini, and Fabio Lombrici. They graduated with honours from the Conservatorio di Firenze, Conservatorio di La Spezia, and Conservatorio di Perugia. After the graduation they have attended several masterclasses with internationally renowned saxophonists and they have obtained numerous awards in different competitions, such as Torneo Internazionale di Musica, Borsa di studio della Società Umanitaria di Milano, Rovere d'oro, Ufam in Paris, Kandisky in Avellino. They have been active both nationally and internationally and have performed with other ensembles at Ministero degli Esteri Italiano, Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, Festival di Musica Contemporanea Archipel in Geneve, Cantiere d'Arte in Montepulciano, Festival Pucciniano, American Composers Society, Ravenna Festival, Nuova Consonanza, Società dei Concerti Barattelli, New York University, Eastman School of Music of Rochester, Colorado College, 17th World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, Stage Internazionale del sassofono in Fermo. The foundation of the Free Saxophone Quartet is motivated by their profound interest in chamber music and willingness to explore the possibilities offered by the distinctive elegance and malleability of this chamber music ensemble. The main objectives of the group are to divulge and promote the original repertoire for saxophone quartet and to broaden it through collaboration with contemporary composers. In 2019 they released their first cd "A Minimal Sax" for the label Brilliant Classics.



Musica senza tempo

Musica senza tempo is the new project by the Freem Saxophone Quartet, built on four works that reflect and pay homage to counterpoint, baroque, classical and folkloristic musical forms. Originally written for other ensembles by some of the most authoritative voices of recent decades - György Ligeti, Salvatore Sciarrino, Arvo Pärt and Elliott Carter - the compositions of Musica senza tempo are characterised by common elements. Although composed between 1939 and 1998, they are based on ancient musical forms rooted in the Western musical tradition, and share a direct and communicative nature that makes them particularly fluid to listen to. The project was conceived not only to emphasise the link between contemporary music and its historical roots, but also to highlight the versatility of the saxophone and its ability to interpret works that reflect musical forms and styles prior to 1846, the year Adolphe Sax invented the instrument.

The *Six Bagatelle* by György Ligeti (1923-2006), written in 1953 for wind quintet, are influenced by the music of Bartók and Stravinsky and create a brilliant synergy between popular music from Eastern Europe and the neoclassical style of the early twentieth century.

Salvatore Sciarrino's (1947) *Canzoniere da Scarlatti* is a collection of transcriptions - or "elaborazioni da concerto" - from harpsichord's Sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757). This work, written in 1998, revisits the compositions of the Baroque composer, emphasising its pure and timeless characteristics.

Fratres is one of the most famous works of the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (1935). Written in 1977 for three main voices but without a fixed instrumentation, it is a chameleonic work that can be adapted to multiple timbral variations. Its recursive shape recalls the minimalist style, without however renouncing to lyrical and suspended openings.

Canonic Suite by the American Elliott Carter (1908-2012) is the only piece in the project originally composed for saxophones. This composition was written in 1939, during Carter's study period with composer Nadia Boulanger. The piece is, in fact, an exercise in composition based on the canon technique but, despite the rigid formal structure, it presents a multitude of musical ideas that makes it musically alive and brilliant.

Through these four works, the Freem Saxophone Quartet offers a dynamic and original program that investigates the relationship between past and present in the highest Western musical tradition of the twentieth century. Musica senza tempo is also a journey to discover the multitude of timbral, technical and expressive possibilities offered by a "young" instrument such as the saxophone even in repertoires of historical periods prior to its creation. This shows how the saxophone is, in all respects, a timeless instrument.

Program

Elliot Carter – Canonic Suite

Salvatore Sciarrino/Domenico Scarlatti – Canzoniere da Scarlatti

Arvo Pärt – Fratres

György Ligeti – Sechs Bagatellen

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Booking

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