



“An ensemble to watch for years to come...”

- American Record Guide

“...technically gifted players, with a golden sound”

- Fanfare Magazine

Vandoren[®]
PARIS



YAMAHA



Recent Press

“The quartet is in top form, boasting a superb blend, solid technique, tight rhythm, and artistic commitment...the group is also eager to push the envelope...[diving] into each score with all their sincerity and technical resources.”

[American Record Guide](#)

“The h2 quartet is a tight group; their timbres blend nicely, and they often sound like one instrument... And they are just as at home in the sensitive and atmospheric and the high-flying virtuoso finish... They boast a large dynamic range and an excellent grasp of musical structure... this should be an ensemble to watch for years to come.”

[American Record Guide](#)

“The h2 quartet produces very clear voicings... and [Generations] is a fine introduction to an ensemble worth following.”

[Fanfare Magazine](#)

“Some very tight ensemble playing and exciting new repertory make the 'h2' an ensemble worth hearing! This whole disc [Times & Spaces] is well-played, the music and order is well chosen and the sound quality is top notch! I recommend this, especially to saxophone fans, to anyone wanting to try something that lies very comfortably on the line between jazz and "modern" chamber music!”

[Audiophile Audition](#)

“The members of the h2 quartet are technically gifted players, with a golden sound, excellent intonation, and superb breath control.”

[Fanfare Magazine](#)

“Artistic energy and superb musicianship best describes this wonderful saxophone quartet. The h2 quartet performs with the musical passion and finesse of a seasoned world class string quartet, traversing styles of classical, contemporary and jazz music with great ease and aplomb.”

[Joseph Lulloff, Distinguished Professor of Music - Saxophone, Michigan State University](#)

“h2 quartet is a virtuosic, tight, beautifully-balanced ensemble that also delivers lovely lyrical musical lines.”

[Saxophone Journal](#)



Highlights

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- Merkin Concert Hall, New York City
- Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles
- National Concert Hall, Dublin, Ireland
- Cankar Jev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- The Times Center, New York City
- Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Michigan State University, East Lansing
- Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti
- Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids
- Blue Lake Festival, White Lake
- Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh
- International Saxophone Symposium, Washington DC
- University of Georgia, Athens
- Grand Valley State University, Allendale
- Patricia M. Sitar Center for the Arts, Washington DC
- Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing
- McIntosh Theater, Ann Arbor
- Arizona State University, Tempe
- University of Saint Andrews, Scotland
- Cortona Sessions for New Music, Italy
- College Music Society National Conference, San Diego
- Guarnerius Arts Center, Belgrade, Serbia



Recordings

h2 quartet, *Hard Line*

Format: CD

Label: BGR

Release Date: January 1, 2016

Mobius Loop – Mathew Rosenblum

Scream When it Sighs – Drew Baker

Hard Line – Bill Ryan

Microfluctuations in Plainchant – Daniel Wohl

Secunda Pars – Igor Karaca

You've Been Talking in Your Sleep – David Biedenbender



h2 quartet, *Groove Machine*

Format: CD

Label: BGR

Release Date: June 12, 2012

Revolution – Marc Mellits

Univocity – Amy Williams

Tango Virtuoso – Thierry Escaich

The Wild, Wild West – Murray Gross

Saxteto – Victor Marquez-Barrios

Engrenages – Alexandros Markeas



h2 quartet, *Times & Spaces*

Format: CD

Label: BGR

Release Date: May 11, 2010

Saxophone Quartet – Philip Glass

Echolocation – Takuma Itoh

Chasing the Silence – Roger Petersen

Falling Up the Down Escalator – David MacDonald

In Dreams – Roger Petersen

Strange Humors – John Mackey



h2 quartet, *Generations*

Format: CD

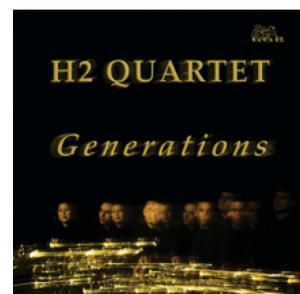
Label: BGR

Release Date: October 14, 2008

Allegro de Concert – Caryl Florio

Quatuor pour Saxophones – Alexander Glazunov

Quatuor pour Saxophones – Ida Gotkovsky





Group Biography

The award-winning **h2 quartet** has been wowing audiences since 2002. **h2** takes advantage of the great expressive capacity of their instrument by programming traditional, avant-garde, minimalist, and jazz-influenced works in surprising and compelling ways. **h2** has performed throughout the United States, in Europe, the UK and in Asia.

The ensemble has released four critically-acclaimed recordings: *Generations*, *Times & Spaces*, *Groove Machine*, and *Hard Line*. Each of these albums introduces audiences to a different side of the saxophone, with the latter two comfortably bridging the gap between the popular and avant-garde sides of American music. The **h2 quartet** has been featured on NPR and PBS programs, including the nationally-syndicated *Backstage Pass*.

Along with demonstrating a mastery of traditional quartet repertoire, **h2** is dedicated to the commissioning and performing of new works. The quartet has commissioned works by Drew Baker, Claudio Gabriele, Takuma Itoh, David MacDonald, Victor Marquez-Barrios, Roger Petersen, Forrest Pierce, David Rakowski, Jesse Ronneau, Bill Ryan, Matthew Schoendorff, Daniel Wohl, and has premiered works by John Mackey, Marc Mellits, Mari Takano, and Amy Williams.

The **h2 quartet** has won prizes at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition (First Prize, Gold Medals) and the North American Saxophone Alliance Saxophone Quartet Competition (first prize), among others. The group was also finalists in the Concert Artists Guild Competition, and earned Honorable Mentions at the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, the Chesapeake Bay Chamber Music Competition, and the Coleman Chamber Music Competition. **h2** is also the recipient of several Aaron Copland Fund Grants.

The **h2 quartet** is a Vandoren and Yamaha Artist Ensemble.

h2 quartet



Members



A Washington, D.C. native, **Geoffrey Deibel** is emerging as an important voice for the saxophone and contemporary music. He maintains a multi-faceted career as performer, teacher, and researcher. Geoff's performances as soloist and chamber musician have taken him around the United States and across the globe. He has appeared at the Internationale Ferienkurse Für Neue Musik, Darmstadt, the International Iannis Xenakis Festival in Athens, Greece, the XV World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, and was invited for a residency at University College Cork, Ireland. Geoff has commissioned new works by many of today's top young composers, including Jesse Ronneau, Claudio Gabriele, Drew Baker, David Rakowski, and Nathan Davis. He has also premiered the works of important composers such as Hans Thomalla, Marc Mellits, Amy Williams, Elliott Sharp, and Mari Takano, and has worked with Bernard Rands, Howard Sandroff, and Christopher Adler, among many others. Geoff has been frequently featured on the New Music Chicago and Soundfield series in Chicago. Geoff has appeared with the New World Symphony (Miami) and Grant Park Symphony (among others), and has worked with conductors such as Roberto Abbado and HK Gruber. Geoff holds degrees in history and music from Northwestern University, and a doctoral degree from Michigan State University. His principal teachers have included Joseph Luloff, Frederick Hemke, Leo Saguiguit, and Reginald Jackson. Geoff has taught at Grand Valley State University, the University of Florida, and currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Wichita State University. He is also the executive director of the Wichita Jazz Festival. Geoff is a Yamaha and Vandoren artist.

A founding member of the h2 quartet, **Kimberly Goddard Loeffert** is the Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Theory at Oklahoma State University. Her current research interests include performance and analysis of chamber music, musical gesture, and the theory and analysis of music since 1980. Loeffert has taught music theory, saxophone, and chamber music at Michigan State University and music theory and aural skills at Florida State University where she is completing a Ph.D. in Music Theory. Loeffert earned a DMA and MM in Saxophone Performance, as well as an MM in Music Theory Pedagogy from Michigan State University. She holds a BM in Saxophone Performance and Jazz Studies from Northwestern University. Her primary saxophone teachers have included Joe Luloff, Dr. Frederick Hemke, and Dr. Joseph Wytko. An active chamber musician, Loeffert has won numerous chamber music prizes as a member of the h2 quartet, including First Place at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition and First Place at the North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition, among others. She can also be heard on five commercially available discs and a nationally-syndicated PBS television episode of Backstage Pass. Loeffert has performed at prestigious venues around the world, including the Cankar Dom (Slovenia), the Guarnerius Center for the Performing Arts (Serbia), Merkin Hall (New York City), the National Concert Hall (Ireland), the Sarajevo Music Academy (Bosnia), the Siam Paragon (Thailand), the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), and the Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), in addition to university recital halls across the country. An advocate for new music, Loeffert has commissioned and/or premiered works by Drew Baker, Karl Blench, Jongyun Choi, Benjamin Fuhrman, Takuma Itoh, Igor Karača, David MacDonald, John Mackey, Marc Mellits, Victor Marquez-Barrios, Roger W. Petersen, David Rakowski, Jesse Ronneau, Amy Williams, and Daniel Wohl, among others.



Jeffrey Loeffert is the Associate Professor of Saxophone at Oklahoma State University. Prior to this appointment, he was the saxophone instructor at Alma College in Alma, Michigan. Loeffert graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Music double major in Saxophone Performance and Jazz Studies. A Frank Huntington Beebe Scholar, Loeffert studied in Paris at the Conservatoire National de Région - Cergy-Pontoise where he received the Medalle d'Or Unanimité and the Conservatoire National de Région - Boulogne-Billancourt where he received the diploma Cycle d'Orientation Professionnel. Loeffert completed graduate studies at Michigan State University (MSU) as the recipient of a University Distinguished Fellowship. He received a Master of Music degree and a Doctor of Music Arts degree in Saxophone Performance, as well as a Master of Music degree in Music Theory Pedagogy. At MSU, he served as a graduate teaching assistant in saxophone and music theory and was awarded the Paul Harder Award for music theory and composition. His primary teachers include Bob Chreste, Jean-Yves Fourmeau, Jean-Michel Goury, Frederick L. Hemke, Joseph Luloff, and Scott Plugge. Loeffert has also had additional studies with Griffin Campbell, Mike Kocour, and Kelland Thomas.

Award-winning saxophonist **Jonathan Nichol** is the Assistant Professor of Saxophone at the University of Oklahoma. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree (2010) and a Master of Music degree (2007) from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Michigan University (2005, Summa Cum Laude). Nichol's primary teachers have been John Nichol, Joseph Luloff, Rob Smith, Diego Rivera, and Rodney Whitaker. He was a recipient of the prestigious Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship. He was a Presser Scholar (CMU, 2004) and was the winner of the Central Michigan University Concerto Competition and two-time winner of the Michigan State University Concerto Competition. Nichol recently performed Michael Torke's Saxophone Concerto with the Alma Symphony Orchestra and William Bolcom's Concert Suite with the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Nichol has performed with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Nelson Riddle Orchestra, Harry James Orchestra, Gene Krupa Orchestra, The Four Tops, The Fifth Dimension, Lansing Symphony Big Band, Flint Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, the Machine (Pink Floyd tribute band), and the Nichol Trio.





Education & Outreach

The h2 quartet is on a mission, through the medium of chamber music, to build and sustain audiences and a population that values art music. Why chamber music? It was in the nineteenth century that chamber music made its way into the homes of families and amateurs. High-quality music was written for these amateur musicians, and a development of an entirely new type of repertoire and performance medium (less formal, but of no lesser quality) was born. The barriers between performer and audience were broken down, and music was seen as something that was accessible for (and doable by) just about anyone.

The h2 quartet believes that one of the best ways to continue to promote education and enthusiasm for art music is to take advantage of these original features of chamber music, to demystify art music and thereby make it accessible for *all* audiences. To that end, the quartet offers a number of educational options for all audiences.

Concerts

Pre-Concert Talks

The quartet will give a half-hour to hour pre-concert lecture and discussion of the works being performed, and the challenges involved in performing the repertoire, including biographical information on the composer and their works. Demonstrations in the form of excerpts will also be provided.

Introduction to the Saxophone Quartet

The h2 quartet will discuss the medium of chamber music through the eyes of the saxophone quartet, giving examples of different repertoire, as well as insight into the experiences of the ensemble. The history of the saxophone quartet, as well as the future of this fruitful medium, will be of special interest to audiences.

College/University

Workshops with Composers

One of the primary objectives of the h2 quartet is the creation of new chamber works for saxophone. Many of h2's fruitful collaborations have come in the university setting, working with both faculty and student composers. The quartet offers the opportunity of reading sessions where composers and students can hear their works performed by a top-level ensemble, and gain insight into the process of working directly with groups in the creation of their music. This interactive experience provides composers with a recording of their work as well as the feedback from the group.

Chamber Music Masterclasses

One of the most popular offerings from the quartet, h2 will provide a masterclass for both saxophone quartets and other chamber ensembles. Quartets of all levels have benefitted from the experience of h2 in working on traditional repertoire, recording, commissioning new works, and competing in high-level national competitions.

K-12

Introduction to chamber music/Children's Concerts

h2 will offer young students an introduction into the possibilities that chamber music has to offer them. The level and subject of the concerts will be appropriate to the age level of the students. Although many schools do not offer chamber music programs, the quartet also offers to work with both students and directors to discuss the process of setting up such programs and the myriad of performing opportunities and mediums that chamber music offers young students.



Organization & Contact

The h2 quartet operates as a nonprofit organization called “h2 quartet, inc.” The mission of the organization is to promote the awareness and appreciation of the saxophone, and particularly of its resourcefulness in the chamber music medium. It serves a tripartite function in performance, education, and commissioning. Those individuals wishing to make a tax-free donation and help to support the artistic endeavors of the h2 quartet should contact the ensemble directly.

Board of Directors:

Howard Gourwitz
Geoffrey Deibel
Jonathan Nichol
Kimberly Goddard Loeffert
Jeffrey Loeffert

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