

Michael Tracy – saxophones

A veritable “Ambassador of Jazz,” Professor Michael Tracy is one of America's foremost jazz educators, with more than thirty-seven years of performing and teaching experience. In classrooms, studios, and concert halls, he has developed a variety of innovative approaches to jazz education, enabling him to work with students of any proficiency. Tracy has taught and performed throughout the United States, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Republic of Georgia, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, and Wales. As a Fulbright Senior Specialist, he worked with and advised the jazz programs at the Estonian Music Academy in Tallinn, Estonia (2014), the Tbilisi State Conservatoire in Tbilisi, Georgia (2016) and Universidad de las Américas in Quito, Ecuador (2018-19).

He has frequently coordinated and hosted groups and exchanges sponsored by prestigious organization such as the Open World Cultural Program (Russia to USA, 2004 thru 2009), FIPSE-CAPES (Brazil to USA, 2010 thru 2017 and CEC ArtsLink (Ukraine and Republic of Georgia). Tracy has also been instrumental in establishing faculty and student exchanges and workshops with institutions in Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Poland, Republic of Georgia and Russia.

Professor Tracy is Director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville School of Music in Louisville, Kentucky, where his responsibilities include teaching saxophone, advising graduate and undergraduate students, and directing the annual Jazz Fest (formerly Jazz Week), which he founded in 1994. In addition to his duties at the University, he is a longtime faculty member of the widely renowned Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops, where he has served for over thirty-seven years. Each summer he teaches combo, jazz theory, and saxophone master classes with the world's leading jazz educators and as camp administrator is responsible for organizing and coordinating educational programs and activities.

Although education has been the main focus of his career, Tracy has also made forays into the worlds of recording, publishing, and arranging. He has eight CDs to his credit. Released in 2019, **Fotografia** is Michael's more recent recording and features arrangements of Brazilian favorites performed with his group Hora Certa – Winton Reynolds, Hamilton Pinheiro, Terry O'Mahoney and Kiko Sebrían. **Hora Certa** (Right Time) was released in 2016 and is a collection of new compositions performed with Eudes Carvalho, Flavio Silva, Hamilton Pinheiro and Pedro Almeida and recorded in Brazil. **Surfboard**, released on Summit Records (2012), also showcases an all Brazilian rhythm section (Renato Vasconcellos, Leonardo Cioglia and Vanderlei Pereira) performing infrequently heard Brazilian selections by Jobim, Pascoal and others in addition to new originals written specially for the CD by contemporary Brazilian composers. Released in 2010, **Wingspan**, features Italian pianist Davide Logiri and showcases originals and arrangements of jazz standards. **Conversations** (2008), is a collection of duets with pianist Harry Pickens. **Gusting**, from 2004, offers a variety of contemporary compositions and was preceded in 2003 by **Tracings**, which includes originals and Brazilian standards and arrangements. **Facets**, released in 1999, features the saxophone in a variety of previously unrecorded classical and jazz works from composers with ties to the state of Kentucky.

Tracy's publishing accomplishments include authoring the book **Jazz Piano Voicings for the Non-pianist** and co-authoring **Pocket Changes: 421 Standard Chord Progressions** and **Pocket Changes II**.

Mr. Tracy is a D'Addario artist and exclusively plays D'addario Jazz Select Reeds.