



# Derrick Michaels

SAXOPHONIST / COMPOSER /  
CONCERT PRESENTER

## Details

4109350530

[derricksax@gmail.com](mailto:derricksax@gmail.com)

## Skills

Saxophone Performance

Improvisation

Concert Production

Music Instruction

Leadership

Composition

Graphic Design

Video Editing

## Links

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

## Professional Summary

Passionate and expressive virtuoso saxophonist with 20 years of experience as a performer, improviser, and collaborator.

Creative approach integrates the driven and lyrical essence of jazz with the subtle and ethereal textures of 21st-century classical music.

As bandleader, assembles an eclectic mix of brilliant improvisers from divergent backgrounds, delivering uncompromisingly intimate and emotionally engaging concert experiences.

## Notable Concert Series

### Creator & Presenter, Derrick Michaels Presents: "Posture of Possibility" @ An Die Musik, Baltimore

JANUARY 2020 – PRESENT

- **Monthly improvisation-centric concert series in Baltimore's premiere listening room for jazz and classical music.**
- Each monthly concert features one vital Baltimore-based composer/improviser under age 30. Following a brief solo performance, the featured musician is showcased within two contrasting groups, each performing cutting-edge, spontaneously composed music, free from idiomatic restrictions.
- This series offers an innovative "next step" program for young adult musicians, effectively helping these burgeoning creative individuals to embody their leadership potential by cultivating a space in which their contributions may flourish. The necessary elements of successful presentation are demonstrated and the programming process is supervised along the way.
- Presented in partnership with An Die Musik, Michaels oversees, creates and handles all promotional responsibilities along with emceeing, performing, and documenting each concert on video.
- Each concert is self-promoted through a holistic program of graphic fliers, promotional videos, targeted email outreach, and word of mouth.
- Video recordings of each concert are edited and archived in order to document the vital work being done in this pivotal concert series.

### Presenter, Organizer, Performer, "Derrick Michaels Presents" @ An Die Musik, Baltimore

JANUARY 2019 – DECEMBER 2019

- **Monthly concert series featuring spontaneously composed music in Baltimore's premier listening room for jazz and classical music.**
- Mission Statement: "The wholehearted expression of music has the potential to uplift the spirit and heal our hearts. These 12 concerts are representative of a creative continuum which is designed to challenge convention & elude classification. I've stationed my tenor saxophone at the axis of a distinctive array of ensembles, putting full trust in improvisation as a potent unifying force across musical boundaries. The mission is to deliver music of substance - embracing the community, while affirming the exceptionally personal nature of creative process for the improvising musician."
- Featured Musicians: Ellery Eskelin *tenor saxophone*, Susan Alcorn *pedal steel guitar*, John Dierker *reeds*, Michael Formanek *bass*, Dave Ballou *trumpet*, Tom Swafford *violin*, Zach Swanson *bass*, Derek Wiegmann *bass*, Savino Palumbo *piano*, Alex Weber *bass*, Dominic Smith *drums*, Dalius Naujo *drums*, Theljon Allen *trumpet*, Eric Kennedy *drums*, Sarah Hughes *winds*, Zack Branch *cello*, Mike Kuhl *drums*, Jaron Lamar Davis *drums*, Chris Pumphrey *piano/saxophone*, Erin Connelly *trumpet*, Nicole Connelly *trombone*, Andrew Hadro *baritone saxophone*, Jacqueline Pollauf *harp*, Brent Madsen *trumpet*, Jamal Moore *reeds*, Jeff Reed *bass*, Laura Banner *cello*

## **Freelance Saxophonist, Baltimore**

JANUARY 2003 – PRESENT

**Tenor & Soprano Saxophone performance in an infinite range of styles and musical contexts in the DMV locale and beyond.**

- Notable collaborators include:

*Ellery Eskelin, Susan Alcorn, Michael Formanek, Dave Ballou, Phillip Greenlief, John Dierker, Zach Swanson, Alex Weber, Eric Kennedy, Mike Kuhl, Jon Seligman, Theljon Allen, Jeff Reed, Sarah Hughes, Jamal Moore, Phil Cunneff, Ben Frock, Chris Pumphrey, Jacqueline Pollauf, Matt Frazao, Adam Hopkins, Kevin Gift, Ledah Finck, Tom Swafford, Dalius Naujo, and more.*

- As a bandleader or co-leader:

*Derrick Michaels Trio, Born From Silence, The Great Unfolding, Blood Moon Quintet, Michaels-Ballou-Formanek-Kuhl, Trio Xolo, Michaels-Weber-Kuhl, Talking Points, Anagnorisis, Hot Air & Horse Hair, Sui Generis, Tonglen, The Honor System, Family Bonding, Daring Greatly, Pale Blue Dot, The Movement Trio, Level Zero, Birdsong, and more.*

- As a side-person:

*Michael Formanek's "The Band That Shall Remain Nameless", Theljon Allen's Universal Language, Phil Cunneff Trio, Mike Kuhl Trio, Station North Jazz Orchestra, Baltimore Boom Bap Society, While You Were Sleeping, Out of Your Head Collective, Chris Pumphrey Sextet, Music for Quiet Spaces, Kinetic Renick, Mondawmen, Charm City Brass Band, Memetics, Jazz Lunch, Ben Frock's Love Unit, Friday Night Book Club, Deep Vision Dance Company, Brent & Co., Outcalls, Softhouse, Rod Hamilton, Supercity, Vinny Vegas, Octaves, Speakers of the House, Ellen Cherry, The Movement Trio, Ghostmode, Alcoder, Sly 45, Bachelor Boys Band, and more.*

## **Freelance Music Educator**

JUNE 2003 – PRESENT

**Guest Lecturer on the subjects of Musical Creativity & Improvisation**

- "Global Improvisation" - Peabody Conservatory
- "History of Jazz in Baltimore" - Notre Dame of Maryland University
- "World Music Ensemble" - Towson University
- "Improvisation Ensemble" - McDaniel College
- "History of Jazz" - Harford Community College
- "Baltimore Jazz Education Project" - Music & Arts Center
- Guest performer with drummer Billy Hart and the Peabody Jazz Orchestra
- Guest performer at both McDaniel College & Carroll Community College with the Jon Seligman Quartet & Quintet.
- Jazz Ensemble at Loyola Blakefield High School

**Private Instructor - Saxophone & Improvisation**

- Private Studio
- The Park School
- Music and Arts Center

## **Education**

**Jazz & Commercial Performance, Towson University, Towson, MD**

SEPTEMBER 2003 – MAY 2005

**High School Diploma, Perry Hall High School, Perry Hall, MD**

SEPTEMBER 1999 – MAY 2003