

# Dr. Richard A. Schwartz · Biography



Grammy® Award considered saxophonist **Dr. Richard A. Schwartz** has commissioned and/or premiered nearly thirty new works for saxophone, performed for regional, national and international events in North and South America and Europe and is the grand prize winner of the 1997 International Henri Mancini Institute Concerto Competition and recipient of the 2010 Southeastern Louisiana University President's Award for Excellence in Artistic Activity. After performing the Boston premiere of Jan Curtis' *Transformations for voice, piano, and alto saxophone* in Jordan Hall, The Boston Globe declared, "...Richard Schwartz displayed extraordinary talent on the saxophone, sympathetically mirroring the voice and contributing his own improvisatory imagination." Awarded three United States patents, Schwartz founded the music publication company SilverKeyMusic.com authoring the internationally recognized intonation tool *The Tuning C.D.*, instructional guides *Circular Breathe Now*, *The Sight-Reading Workbook*, *MU\$IC MONEY 101: The Entrepreneurial Musician* and *Transitions: A Graduated Jazz Method* and has published contributions in *Saxophone Journal* and *International Trumpet Guild Journal*. Dr. Schwartz's latest compact disc entitled "Embers: Music for saxophone with piano and electronics" appeared on the 2015 Recording Academy's official ballot for Grammy® Award nominations: Field 28, Category 78, Number 107.

Dr. Schwartz has been a freelancing musician throughout the United States and Europe for over 20 years. He has performed featured solos with such pop musical legends as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin and has shared the stage with major jazz artists backing up Tom Scott, Byron Stripling, Diana Krall, Steve Tyrell, Ernie Watts, John Clayton, Dave Grusin, Roy Hargrove, Bob Mintzer, The Turtle Island String Quartet, Paquito d'Rivera, Justo Almario, Don Menza, Bud Shank, and Bill Watrous. Having also performed in orchestras, most notably the Mobile and Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestras and the Boston Pops, Dr. Schwartz has worked with an array of renowned commercial composers, conductors, and performers including Linda Ronstadt, Johnny Mathis, Ben Vereen, Keith Lockhart, Dennis Edwards (of The Temptations), Nathan Scott, Johnny Mandel, Peter Boyer, Jack Elliot, Mitchell Glickman, Frank Proto, Charles Floyd, Samuel Adler, Frank Battisti, H. Robert Reynolds, Ray Pizzi and Patrick Williams.

As a woodwind specialist, Dr. Schwartz has performed in pit orchestras including the national tours of *Kiss Me, Kate*, *The Color Purple* and *The Producers* and has recorded projects for Public Television and the Centaur and Toshiba labels. A member of the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, he has performed for United States senators, governors and President Ronald Reagan. Dr. Schwartz has offered lectures on intonation and extended woodwind techniques at North and South American conferences.

As an educator, Dr. Schwartz's high school, undergraduate and graduate saxophone students have performed at saxophone conventions and have been accepted to leading institutions of music including the New England Conservatory, Northwestern University, Berklee College of Music, Indiana University, The University of North Texas, Loyola University New Orleans, Boston University, The Longy School of Music, The University of Florida and others. Past students of Dr. Schwartz have been decorated with awards including grand prizes at concerto competitions, prizes at chamber music competitions (including Plowman and Fischhoff), endowed scholarships (up to \$100,000.00) and an array of esteemed awards.

Schwartz served as baritone saxophonist with the Louisiana Saxophone Quartet, along with Griffin Campbell, Jennifer Foret and Paula Van Goes. Since its formation in 2009 the quartet has performed throughout the Gulf Coast region. The ensemble was featured at the 2011 North American Saxophone Alliance Region VI conference in Jacksonville, Florida and the 2012 North American Saxophone Alliance biennial conference in Tuscon, AZ. In June 2011 the quartet toured South America performing, adjudicating, and teaching at the Conservatório de Tatuí and the music schools of UNRIO and UFRJ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At the III International Saxophone and Clarinet Encounter in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia they performed to critical acclaim. The Louisiana Saxophone Quartet was hailed by the Bolivian newspaper *Ovación* as "a group of four virtuoso saxophonists that possess excellent technical attributes and a deep understanding of the music they perform."

Current president of the New Mexico Jazz Educators, Dr. Schwartz is assistant professor of saxophone and jazz studies at Eastern New Mexico University and has served on the faculties of Boston University, Brandies University and Southeastern Louisiana University (2011-2013 Faculty Senate President).