

Paul Cohen - Alto Saxophone

Paul Cohen has appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Richmond Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Charleston Symphony and Philharmonia Virtuosi. His many solo orchestra performances include works by Debussy, Creston, Ibert, Glazunov, Martin, Loeffler, Husa, Dahl, Still, Villa-Lobos, Tomasi, and Cowell. He has also performed with a broad range of orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera (NYC), Cleveland Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, New Jersey Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, Group for Contemporary Music, Greenwich Symphony, Charleston Symphony, New York Solisti, and the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra.

He has recorded three albums with the Cleveland Symphonic Winds under the direction of Frederick Fennell and a compact disk of the music of Villa-Lobos with the Quintet of the Americas as well as recordings with the Saxophone Sinfonia, Philharmonia Virtuosi, New York Solisti, Paul Winter Consort, North-South Consonance, and the New Sousa Band. His most recent recordings include *Quiet City*, a chamber music CD including premiere recordings of works by Ornstein, Lunde and Harlley, as well as *Breathing Lessons*, a CD of new works for saxophone quartet. This summer His latest solo CD, *American Landscapes*, was released in 2016 featuring three centuries of American music for saxophone including the newly discovered saxophone concerto of the 19th-century American composer Caryl Florio. Earlier recordings include an environmental-jazz CD of solo improvisations and his solo CD, *Vintage Saxophones Revisited*, featuring the premiere recording of Cowell's *Hymn and Fuguing Tune #18*.

A specialist on the soprano saxophone, he is the founder and leader of the New Hudson Quartet, which has performed concertos by Calvin Hampton and Nicolas Flagello. The NHQ recently released two CDs of American music, *Quartet at the Crossroads*, and *Breathing Lessons* on the Parma and Naxos labels. Dr. Cohen is featured on a 2016 CD release of the saxophone music of Henry Cowell and Percy Grainger, as soloist and chamber player on alto and soprano saxophones.

Cohen holds a master of music degree and doctor of musical arts degree from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Galan Kral, Joe Allard, and Sigurd Rascher. He has published more than one hundred articles on the history and literature of the saxophone in music journals such as the *Saxophone Journal*, *Instrumentalist*, *CBDNA Notes*, *Clarinet and Saxophone Society Magazine of Great Britain*, *The Grainger Society Journal*, and the *Saxophone Symposium*. Since 1985 he has written a feature column, "Vintage Saxophones Revisited," for the *Saxophone Journal*.

Shawn Bartels - Tenor

Shawn Bartels, Tenor, is a native of Gillette, Wyoming. Roles include Count Almaviva (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Lindoro (*L'Italiana in Algeri*), Il Podestà (*La Finta Giardiniera*), Nanki-Poo (*The Mikado*), The Vain Man/The Snake (*The Little Prince*), Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*), the Roasting Swan (*Carmina Burana*) and St. Nicolas in Britten's *Saint Nicolas*. He appeared as the Ballad Singer (*Of Mice and Men*) with Glimmerglass Opera. Mr. Bartels sang Uriel (*The Creation*) with Robert Shaw, appeared at Carnegie Hall in Mozart's *Vesperae de Dominica* and *Coronation Mass* and appeared in Jonathan Miller's stagings of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at The Brooklyn Academy of Music. He performed *The Prologue/Quint (The Turn of the Screw)* with Broomhill Opera (London) and *Skylight Opera*, and sang Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Ensemble D'Opera European (Marseille, France). He has been a soloist with *Musica Viva* of New York since 1995. He received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Northern Colorado and his Master in Music in Vocal Performance from Florida State University. Shawn is also a member of the New York guitar-pop band *Portraiture*, scheduled to release their new EP in the Spring of 2017.

Alex Gertner - Horn

Alex Gertner is a freelance horn player in the New York and New Jersey area. He received his Bachelor of Music from Virginia Commonwealth University, his Master of Music from the University of Connecticut, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Music from Montclair State University. He is a graduate assistant at Montclair State and was one while at UConn. Born and raised in Teaneck, New Jersey Alex has been playing the horn since the age of 9. He has played in many different groups including bands, orchestras, jazz groups, pit orchestras, and chamber ensembles both in school and professionally.

Gertner has played in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, Sandler Center, Jorgensen Center, and the International Horn Symposium. He has participated in masterclasses with Randy Gardner, Michelle Baker, Annamia Larsson, Eric Reed, Rachel Childers, and Martin Hackleman and has had the opportunity to perform with artists including Solomiya Ivakhiv, Dionne Jackson, Bucky Pizzarelli, Donny McCaslin, and The Machine.

Gertner finds great joy in performing and in teaching new students of the instrument. He would like to thank all of his family and friends for all of the support that he has received. His teachers include Kyle Hoyt, Robert Hoyle, Patrick Smith, and Kate Sheeran. For more information, visit his website at alexgertnerhorn.com