

THE TIPTONS SAXOPHONE QUARTET & DRUMS MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

AMY DENIO - alto sax, clarinet, voice // **JESSICA LURIE** - alto & tenor sax, voice
SUE ORFIELD - tenor sax, voice // **TINA RICHERSON** - baritone saxophone, voice
ROBERT KAINAR - drums



“The Tiptons encourage interaction...students were engaged and eager to take part ...many enthusiastic students stayed late to talk and absorb more from these talented women, who have great lessons to teach —not only musical, but also life and business lessons as well.” (Review of workshop for approximately 100 music students at Abermarle H.S., Charlottesville, VA (Gary Funston, Charlottesville Jazz Society)

THE TIPTONS SAXOPHONE QUARTET & DRUMS is an internationally renowned group based in Seattle and New York. This all-women ensemble has performed in schools, clubs and festivals all over the US, Canada, and Europe. With concerts that cover musical territory from New Orleans “second - line” to free jazz, Afro-Cuban to Balkan, Klezmer and beyond, the Tiptons create some of the wildest sounds ever to come out of a sax quartet. Their dynamic, playful concerts feature high-energy interaction between members, and a repertoire using sax, voice and drums that touches on soulful music from around the world.

The Tiptons Saxophone Quartet offers several programs suitable for school groups (grades K-12), universities, musicians and non-musicians alike of all ages and levels interested in creative improvising, composition, woodwind and vocal technique. The group has led workshops, masterclasses and 2-5 day residencies around the USA, Canada, Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and France, including work with 20-40 person choirs, saxophone ensembles, special needs students, and a variety of community and student groups of all age groups.

In all workshops offered, student participation is strongly encouraged. There are opportunities for students to explore improvisation and composition with the quartet using voice, body percussion or on instruments they bring to play.* Each presentation features a question and answer session, printed handouts for student preparation and follow-up materials for classroom teachers, original arrangements of works by Tiptons if applicable. Presentations #1 and #4 are approximately 1 hour unless otherwise specified. Programs #2 and #3 are usually 4 hours minimum, and can be expanded into a several day residency, and can include featuring workshop participants performing with the Tiptons as a final group presentation and concert. Small percussion and some wind instruments can be provided by the Tiptons if requested in advance.

MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Program #1 "Music From The Horn Hut": The Tiptons compose and arrange much of their own material, resulting in a wide array of styles, with influences from around the world. This more general program exposes students to the plethora of sounds possible in a saxophone quartet. The members of the group employ vocalizations, percussive poppings, growls and other unusual sonic elements in addition to our eclectic repertoire.

Program #2: "Compose Yourself: Improvisational & Compositional Games in Music"

We will explore different techniques of experimental/free improvisation and composition in music, as well as listen to and play along with several pieces and improvisational forms by The Tiptons. We will apply techniques such as Sound Ball, Conduction and group conducting, additive composition, matrix grids, call and response and structured solo to large ensemble improvisations. We hope to also challenge students to create their own compositions and improvisational games, that can provide tools and ideas for music composition. Basic competency on their instruments is helpful but not required. Participants should bring their instruments (including voices!) if they play one.



Program #3: Master class on Saxophone technique, including Tiptons arrangements and repertoire.

This class is for more experienced woodwind players & musicians, and includes extended techniques on the horns, approaches to soloing modally and over changes, as well as analysis of how we compose and arrange for the quartet. Students will join us in playing through some of our more complex repertoire, as well as have opportunities for one-on-one instruction from members of the quartet.



Program #4 "Traditional and Contemporary Music of Four Cultures"

The Tiptons have performed this program to students in grades K-12 with great success, often working with local dancers to highlight the movement that is deeply linked to the music. The program focuses on Eastern European Klezmer music from the Jewish tradition; Afro-Cuban music; Tarantella music from Italy; and contemporary American music (jazz, funk, blues). For each genre of music, we highlight the its history and evolution, distinctive rhythms, the music's social function, form and dance connected to the music, as well as the traditional instrumentation that has been re-interpreted by the sax quartet