**ARVYDAS KAZLAUSKAS**

Arvydas Kazlauskas (b. 1982) is one of the leading saxophone players in Latvia. Trained as an academic musician, Arvydas doesn‘t limit himself only to classical music, and is known for his creative curiosity. Arvydas is always up for unexpected musical adventures resulting in collaborations with musicians of other genres and explorations of yet-unknown musical territories. Arvydas Kazlauskas’ playing has been described as having “…exceptionally high qualities in sound, articulation and emotional nuances.”… (A.Znotiņš, *Diena*).

A.Kazlauskas was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, where he received his basic musical education. Then he graduated from Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music in Riga, Latvia, with additional Erasmus studies at Universitat der Kunste Berlin with Johannes Ernst. Arvydas has participated in a number of masterclasses with such artists as Arno Bornkamp, Claude Delangle, Vincent David, Joel Versavaud and Daniel Gauthier. A.Kazlauskas is a prize winner of number of international saxophone competitions: The International Hillar Kareva Contest for Saxophonists and Trumpeters ( 2003, Tallinn; 1st prize), Jurjanu Andrejs 3d International Competition “Woodwind Instruments” (2005, Riga; Grand Prix), 3rd international saxophone competition “Alps – Adria – Danube” (2005, Nova Gorica; 2nd prize).

Arvydas has collaborated with singers Gunta Davidcuka and Baiba Berke, pianists Reinis Zarins and Agnese Eglina, *Sinfonietta Riga* string quartet, Dirt Nonet, DJ Kri, organist Balys Vaitkus, and state choir “Latvia”. Arvydas was a member of Riga Saxophone Quartet from 2006-2013, during which time he gave a number of premier performances by latvian composers such as Rihards Dubra, Liga Celma, Valdis Muktupavels, Nic Gotham and others.

In 2016 Arvydas founded *Atomos Saxophone Quartet*, and the ensemble has since given premier performances of pieces by Jachin Pousson, Edgars Mākens, Madara Pētersone, Ritvars Garoza, Dāvis Jurka, and Platon Buravicky. A.Kazlauskas is also a member of electroacoustic free improv band *Endless Roar* whose debut LP “Rush Hush” was nominated for Zelta Mikrofons 2020 award in the category *Best Jazz or Funk album.*

As a soloist Arvydas has performed with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Latvian State chamber orchestra *Sinfonietta Riga*, Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band *Riga*, Orchestra *Sinfonia Concertante* and Municipal Symphonic Band of Seville, and St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra.

As a chamber musician or a soloist he has performed in Poland, Lithuania, Norway, Finland, Louxembourg, United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Romania, Bulgaria and Russia. Arvydas is a docent of saxophone at Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music. He has given masterclasses in Udine (Italy), Vilnius (Lithuania), Dublin (Ireland), Helsinki (Finland), Jerusalem (Israel), Tallinn (Estonia), and Guillena (Spain). For three years he was a saxophone teacher in the Erasmus Intensive Student Programme *Brass & Jazz* (2011-2013 Riga, Latvia) and he is also an artistic director of the international student festival *Riga Saxophone Days*.

Arvydas Kazlauskas has premiered pieces by composers such as Rolands Kronlaks, Līga Celma, Jachin Pousson, Linda Leimane, Gabriel Jackson, Edgars Raginskis, Ilona Breģe, saxophone concertos by Andris Dzenītis, Juste Janulyte and Vineta Līce.

In 2014 Andris Dzenītis’ saxophone concerto *E(GO)*, premiered by A.Kazlauskas together with Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (cond. Normunds Sne) received Latvian “Great Music Award” in the category “The New Piece Of The Year”.

In 2017 A.Kazlauskas was nominated for the Latvian “Great Music Award” in the category “Musician of the year".

In 2019 A.Kazlauskas has recorded a “Symphony No.19 for baritone saxophone and orchestra” together with Liepāja Symphony Orchestra (cond. M.Kupčs).

In 2020 he has recorded a double LP “Purvs” together with Lithuanian free jazz saxophonist Liudas Mockūnas.