

2012 Chamber Music American Residency grant recipient and 2009 ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award Winner Contemporary are just a few of the accolades saxophonist Albert Rivera has had the honor of receiving. Downbeat Magazine stated he is “a modern Jazz Messenger” as one of the most exciting and sought-after saxophone sounds in today’s jazz scene. His first album, *Re-Introduction* (Turnaround Records), was warmly embraced by critics, who call Albert and his two band mates, Luques and Zaccai Curtis, “three young artists who are part of the next wave in this jazz ritual.”

Inner Peace was the latest accomplishment in Rivera’s acclaimed musical career. He began playing as a classical musician at age ten, and he made his first appearance at Carnegie Hall two years later. When studying at the selective LaGuardia High School for Music and Arts program, Rivera discovered jazz, and he was instantly hooked. “I was speechless the first time I heard Charlie Parker and John Coltrane.”

Rivera’s distinct style has been greatly influenced by classic jazz greats like Coltrane and by more contemporary sounds, like those of Joshua Redman. “When I first heard *Elastic* by Redman, I knew it was only a matter of time before I adapted it to my own voice. In my music, when composing new sounds, I use the modal aspect of John Coltrane’s works as a creative launching pad, mixing in a variety of grooves and rhythms. My music can make you move, it may make you think, and it definitely will evoke your emotions.”

Rivera’s musical journey includes playing at world-renown venues like the Litchfield Jazz Camp in Connecticut and the New School University Jazz and Contemporary Music Program. Albert has enjoyed the priceless opportunity to play and learn alongside some of the greats in jazz performance, like Don Braden, Jimmy Greene and Claudio Roditi. Rachel Z, and Charli Persip. Albert also serves as the Director of Operations at the acclaimed Litchfield Jazz Camp.

Rivera has toured throughout America with his own Trio and Quartet, including playing at several New York venues like Smalls Jazz Club, Sweet Rhythm, Zinc Bar, Cleopatra’s Needle, Nuyorican Poets Cafe and the River Room of Harlem. He appears often in Connecticut, at clubs like Szechuan Tokyo in West Hartford, or Black Eyed Sally’s in Hartford. He can also be found performing in top venues in the northeast such as Chris Jazz Cafe in Philadelphia, the Haven Lounge or An Die Musik in Baltimore, and B. Smith’s or the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Critics have long admired Rivera’s original and fluid saxophone style. Elliott Simon reviewed *Re-Introduction* in All About Jazz, writing that “Rivera’s compositions are diverse, these musicians hit the pocket and sustain a powerful group dynamic.” Tony Hall, of Jazz Wise Magazine, added that “Rivera has a timeless tenor tone.”

Rivera also has a distinguished musical education career. He has started a new program in Miami, FL at the Miami Arts Charter School to expose and teach a greater number of children about jazz. If you’re already a fan of Albert Rivera, or if you’re just starting your journey onto the jazz scene, visit Albert online. You can find out more information, learn of upcoming performances, or just enjoy his melodic grooves, at: www.AlbertRiverajazz.com

-Albert is proudly an artist of RSBerkeley Saxophones, as well as Vandoren Optimum Ligatures, Vandoren Mouthpieces, and Vandoren Reeds for alto, tenor and soprano.