

BIO FOR SHERELYN HARRIS

SAXOPHONE/CLARINET/RECORDER TEACHER

Sherelyn has been playing and learning music since the age of 5 and has had experience playing with various groups and playing different genres ranging from classical to jazz over the years including playing at different venues with the Scots College Jazz Band which she formed and conducted for 15 years.

Sherelyn has 20 years of teaching experience starting at the Upper Hutt Music Centre and later onto Scots College where her main focus of playing and teaching aligned with running a successful Jazz programme and playing alongside her students at different events around Wellington and playing in the Wellington Jazz Festival several times over the years. Also Sherelyn's students have had the opportunity to sit formal exams of which she has a 100% success rate right up to Grade 8 with the Trinity Guild College of London and NCEA Level 3 in Music.

Sherelyn is first and foremost a teacher of music then a musician. Classically trained by various teachers but most significantly June Byng (NZ Symphony Orchestra). Later on Sherelyn was introduced to jazz by Lance Philip and received tutorship from him and Colin Hemingsen, attending "improvisation for non-jazz players" at NZ School of Music. Further mentoring came from the great and generous teachers at the NZ School of Music.

Inspiration and favourite musicians are Branford Marsalis, Grover Washington Jnr, Sonny Rollins, Nathan Haines, Sting, Mary Black, Sarah McLachlan, Trinity Roots and many many more across every genre. I love movie music a lot.

I am a diverse musician/teacher with a passion for music across the genres, all worthy of exploration and enjoyment. My biggest musical achievement has been the success of the Scots College Jazz Band and this is because of the pride and joy it brought to myself personally to be able to teach and inspire young people to play. To watch them discover music and to watch them grow and develop within a band and the satisfaction it brings when growth and success become a by-product of that joy.