

Lauren Sevian

2017 NAfME All-National Honors Ensembles

Jazz Band

Soloist

Grammy award winning saxophonist Lauren Sevian has been performing professionally since the age of 12, first on the piano, then on the saxophone. At the age of 16 she won the Count Basie Invitational soloing competition, which led to a feature performance with the Basie Band. By the age of 17 she had already performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, & the Village Vanguard.



In the fall of 1997, Lauren came to NYC to attend the prestigious Manhattan School of Music where she studied privately with Mark Turner, Donny McCaslin, Steve Slagle, Joe Temperley, and Mike Abene. Upon entering her senior year of college, Lauren was given the chance to go on tour with the critically acclaimed big band Diva. After returning from the Diva tour, Lauren returned to MSM and graduated in the spring of 2001 with a bachelor of music degree.

Some highlights of Sevian's career: in 2003 she became a regular member of the Mingus Big Band and has performed with them throughout the US and internationally; she was in the movie *Mona Lisa Smile* which starred Julia Roberts; in 2006 she recorded with Greg Osby for Joan Osbourne's "Breakfast in Bed"; in 2007 she performed Charles Mingus' "Epitaph" with the Mingus Epitaph Orchestra in several concert halls across the US; in the summer of 2007, she joined the Litchfield Jazz Camp faculty as a teaching artist; in 2008 she was invited to adjudicate & perform at the Monterey Jazz Festival's "Next Generation" Festival, where she performed with Christian McBride, Terry-Lynn Carrington, George Duke, Billy Harper, Ron Westray, and many others. In 2009, 2010, & 2011 she toured with the Rescue Me Comedy Tour featuring Dennis Leary and appears in the Comedy Central special "Douchebags & Donuts". In October 2009 she was invited to perform as a special guest in Ireland and with the Nikki Iles Quintet at the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival. In 2009 & 2010 she toured France with the Black Rock Coalition Orchestra led by songstress Tamar-kali. In 2012 she had the pleasure of performing with vocalist Jane Monheit as part of the group "Jane Monheit and the Ladies of Jazz" assembled by promoter Mike Gow, and performed with Christian McBride's Big Band, backing up artists such as Maceo Parker and Fred Wesley. In 2014 she performed with Kevin Mahogany at the Kennedy Centers "KC Club". In November of 2014, she started touring with the legendary "Count Basie Orchestra", (as the first female saxophonist to do so!) She has received numerous awards throughout the years, nominated from 2008-present for the Downbeat Critics Poll "rising star"

baritone saxophone, a SESAC jazz award for “Blueprint”, and is now a Grammy award winner for the Mingus Big Band’s “Live at the Jazz Standard.” (2011)

Lauren has one quartets, the “LSQ” (bari, piano or guitar, bass & drums) Musicians that have performed in either group include: George Colligan, Helen Sung, Adam Burnbaum, Theo Hill, Robert Rodriguez, Simona Premazzi, Dave Stryker, Boris Kozlov, Brad Jones, Marcos Varela, Johnathan Blake, Jeff Davis, E.J. Strickland, Cecil Brooks, & Curtis Torian. She has performed as a leader at clubs such as the Kitano, Smoke, Jazz Gallery, Mattatuck Museum, and Fat Cat. The “LSQ”, released “Blueprint” in December 2008 on Greg Osby’s label Inner Circle Music. “Blueprint” spent many weeks in the top 20 on the Jazzweek chart, and has also been included in numerous best of 2009 lists, receiving a national performance activity award from SESAC in 2010, “best of 2009” list by All About Jazz, and received rave reviews by DownBeat, Cadence Magazine, Amazon, and All About Jazz. She has also done countless radio interviews following the release of Blueprint. Other publications she has been featured in: Saxophone Journal, The Sax (Japan), Hothouse, Jazz Inside, Boston Globe, Newsday, allaboutjazz.com, bestsaxophonewebsiteever.com, montereyjazzfest.org, soufflez.net, and George Colligan’s “Jazz Truth”.

In addition to performing, Ms. Sevian is highly involved in jazz education, having been a guest artist, clinician, and adjudicator at numerous institutions and festivals all over the country. Highlights include the summer of 2007, she joined the Litchfield Jazz Camp faculty as a teaching artist. In April 2008 she was invited to adjudicate & perform at the Monterey Jazz Festival’s “Next Generation” Festival. In 2011 she was the guest artist/conductor for the Westchester All-County Jazz Ensemble. In 2012, she was a featured artist & adjudicator with the UMSL (University of Missouri St. Louis) jazz ensemble as part of the Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival, and at Utah State University as a guest artist and instructor. In 2013, she was a guest artist at Baldwin Wallace University, where she rehearsed & performed with the jazz ensemble. In 2014 she was a guest adjudicator for the Sleepy Hollow Jazz Festival. 2015 she was invited to be a clinician and adjudicator for the Eau Claire Jazz Festival. in 2016 she was a guest for the Jazz Night in Hampton Bays, NY. As an artist for Buffet-Crampon she has given numerous clinics & performances around the country, the JEN conference in New Orleans, and at Saxquest in St. Louis, MO. In 2016 she was an adjudicator for the "Essential Ellington" competition along with Wynton Marsalis, Chuck Israels, Jeff Hamilton, and Chris Crenshaw. She has also taught at New School & Queens College, and teaches for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Middle School Jazz Academy, Jazz House Kids, & NJPAC’s “Jazz For Teens”.