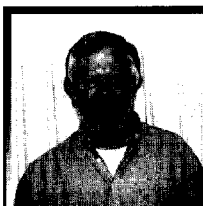
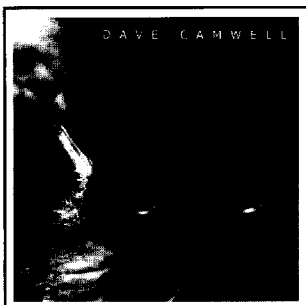


Recommended Recordings

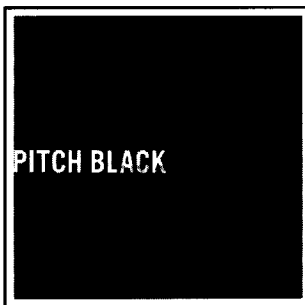


Paul Wagner



AETERNA
Dave Camwell

Teal Creek Music (TC-2012)
www.tealcreekmusic.com



PITCH BLACK
Music For Saxophonies
Prism Saxophone Quartet
www.innova.mu

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Out of historical necessity the saxophone world had to create and develop its own literature for performance and for the technical development of the players. Then saxophonists began inviting composers to write for the instrument. This flame of passion has been handed from generation to generation and saxophonist Dave Camwell is causing it to burn brighter. This CD, titled *Aeterna*, easily contributes much to the wealth and breadth of saxophone literature.

Dave Camwell hails from Calgary Canada. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. He is a Yamaha Performing Artist and is endorsed by Protec, Beechler, SD-Systems microphones, and Sax Scarf. Dave Camwell has received degrees from the University of Calgary and Jacksonville State University with Bachelors of Music and a dual major in Jazz Studies and Education. He received a Master's degree with a dual major in Performance and Education from the University Northern Colorado, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Oregon in Performance, with a secondary emphasis in Jazz Studies. He has performed in the jazz festivals of Montreux, Brienz, Calgary, Edmonton, and Victoria. He performs regularly at the regional and national conferences of the North American Alliance and presented the World Premiere of Nate Brown's *Whooshing Noise* at the 14th World Saxophone Congress in Slovenia (2006). He has over twenty

published publications dedicated to him. His transcriptions have been performed throughout North America, Great Britain, and China. His current projects include performing with the Oasis Saxophone Quartet, performing concerts with various orchestras and transcribing more literature for the saxophone. He is also an active writer for *Saxophone Journal*. He has transcribed several classical pieces for saxophone quartets as well as several for solo saxophone, and saxophone with accompaniment.

Dave Camwell is a saxophonist of the first order and demonstrates easily his technical mastery of the instrument and artistic interpretation of repertoire. His tone is warm, rich and supple with the ability to flex his muscles when needed. His articulation is crisp, clear, and precise. Add to this the superb talent of pianist Ron Albrecht and we have a wonderful duo that delivers an extremely sensitive and intuitive performance.

The opening selection is a beautiful transcription of *Widmung Opus 25* by Robert Schumann. The gentleness of the performance sweeps the listener into a lovely reverie where the only world is the performance of this piece. The second selection is the *Double Concerto For Two Violins, BWV 1043*, by J. S. Bach. The piece has been rewritten for two saxophones and piano. Our instrumental duo includes saxophonist James Romaine. This is a stunning combination of both talent and repertoire that totally captivates the imagination. Both saxophonist's timbres match perfectly as do their performance skills. Their staccato attacks coincide perfectly, as well as their vibrato, which is ideally suited to the music. In total this trio achieves an astonishing sense of ensemble sound as that would have pleased the master himself, J.S. Bach.

Now comes the title selection *Aeterna*, composed by John Anthony Lennon. You may recall David Camwell's recent *Aeterna* Masterclass CD in the March/April 2007 issue of *Saxophone Journal*. This is a very dramatic composition that utilizes tape delay and reverb in the background. It maintains an otherworldly feel throughout the performance. Dave Camwell makes excellent use of some special effects weaving them exquisitely into the performance. *Aeterna* is ethereal and imaginative Camwell's performance on this CD is perhaps a performing hallmark for this piece.

Urban Impressions by the pianist Ron Albrecht is a delightful piece for saxophone and piano in five movements that is a collection of aural paintings capturing the frantic moods of the city, and contrasts them to more pastoral moments that can also occur in an urban environment. This is followed by another provocative piece titled *Sax Sounds III: Diminishing Returns* by Steven Galante. Dave Camwell is joined by saxophonist James Bunte to create a breath taking performance of this incredible composition. This is followed by David Ott's *Expression* in five excellent movements, then *The Whooshing Noise, Adagio And Allegro* by Robert Schumann. The closer is a perfect encore piece, *Caprice No. 24, Op. 1* by Niccoló Paganini.

Aeterna is an extremely inspiring CD of beautiful artistic music and Dave Camwell's saxophone artistry sets him apart

from the crowd. This CD was supported in part by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. It was recorded August through December 2007. §

PITCH BLACK
 Music For Saxophonies
Prism Saxophone Quartet
 www.innova.mu

Perhaps the favorite performing ensemble for saxophonists is the saxophone quartet. Entering the stage for this CD, titled *Pitch Black*, is the Prism Saxophone Quartet. Founded in 1984, the quartet has been awarded the Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, and has been recognized by Musical America as "Outstanding Young Artists." Prism's creative work has been supported by the nation's leading cultural philanthropies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet The Composer, Chamber Music America, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Presser Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund, The Philadelphia Music Project, and The Pew Charitable trusts and state arts councils in Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan.

As champions of new music this quartet has premiered over 100 works by many established American composers such as William Albright, Chen Yi, Lee Hyla, Libby Larson, Greg Osby, and Jennifer Higdon. The Quartet also maintains four annual Young Composer Commissioning Awards, three for composers up to 35 years of age in Greater Philadelphia, New York City, and the State of Michigan. The and the fourth being reserved for 14 to 18 year old students at the Walden School for Young Composers in Dublin, New Hampshire, where the quartet conducts regular residencies. The awards are designed to encourage young composers to contribute to the saxophone quartet's repertoire.

Prism can be heard on the soundtrack of the film *Two Plus One*, the feature film debut of writer director and Emmy Nominee, Eugene Martin, scored by Quartet member Matthew Levy. The quartet is featured weekly on the theme of the PBS news Magazine *NOW*. In November 2004 the Prism Quartet celebrated its twentieth anniversary season and has been going strong ever since. The Members of the quartet are Matthew Levy on tenor, Timothy McAllister on soprano, Zach Shemon on alto and Taimur Sullivan on baritone.

Pitch Black features the music of Jacob TV (Jacob Ter Veldhuis), who started as a rock musician and then studied at the conservatory where he was awarded the Dutch Composition Prize in 1980. As a composer he has been fascinated with American media and world events and draws raw materials and inspiration from those sources. All but one of the six compositions are for saxophone or saxophones and "ghettoblaster," and all but the same one are accompanied by voice on the ghetto-blast. It could be construed as a combination of more traditional saxophone music with rap issued forth from a prepared tape on the ghetto-blast.

The first piece is the namesake of the CD, and titled *Pitch Black*. It is for saxophone quartet and tape, premiered previously by the Aurelia Saxophone Quartet. *Pitch Black* is accompanied by words of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker in his last interview before his death in 1988.

Baker speaks of his past as a drug addict, his life in prison and his first audition with Charlie Parker. The interplay between the spoken word and the saxophone quartet is fascinating and at times hypnotic.

The second selection, *Billie*, is for alto and ghetto-blast and is dedicated to the American saxophonist Connie Frigo. This composition features the recorded voice of Billie Holiday from several interviews during her life. *Postnuclear Winterscenario No. 10* is also a very provocative piece that makes a profound statement with its stark and barren textures. Prism plays this beautifully, and the fact that they are a saxophone quartet is forgotten the moment they start playing, as the listener is so caught up in the drama of the music. The bleakness of the piece tears at the heart profoundly. The passion with which it is performed is simply amazing.

The next selection is *Grab It* (also for tenor and ghetto-blast) and was composed for Arno Bornkamp. Part of this composition is inspired by the American documentary *Scared Straight*. We move on to *The Garden Of Love* for soprano and tape. It is based on a poem by William Blake and was originally composed for oboe in March 2002, and later adapted for soprano saxophone. The final selection, *Jesus Is Coming*, was originally for a recorder quartet but later redone for saxophone quartet.

Pitch Black is a most unique CD. There is nothing else like it, anywhere. The Prism Quartet does a phenomenal job and this is one impressive group of saxophonists proving there are no limitations.

This CD was made with generous support from the William Penn Foundation, and Innova is supported by an endowment from the McKnight Foundation and their webpage is www.innova.mu

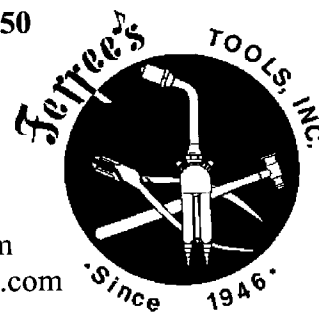
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