

Mike Allen

Saxophonist / Composer / Educator

Doug Fischer, jazz columnist for the Ottawa Citizen, calls Mike Allen "the country's top jazz saxophonist", ranking his seventh album Love One Another, the "#1 Canadian Jazz Album of 2005". Jazz Journal International refers to him as "an accomplished musician who has studied Coltrane in depth and forged a style that is fresh and vital".

Mike Allen is profiled in Mark Miller's Miller Companion to Jazz in Canada and has a Master's in Jazz from New York University. He has performed and/or recorded with internationally recognized players including Cedar Walton, Julian Priester, Kenny Wheeler, Peter Leitch, Gary Bartz, John Taylor, Jim Snidero, Brian Lynch, Don Friedman, Don Thompson, John Ballantyne, Chuck Israels, Donald Bailey, Ali Jackson, Seamus Blake, and Pete Magadini. He was a member of Canadian guitar legend Sonny Greenwich's band from 1990 to 1995, his playing featured on Greenwich's Standard Idioms (Kleo) and Fragments Of A Memory (Cornerstone). In 1993, Canada's national newspaper, The Globe and Mail listed Mike as one of a half-dozen "Interesting Canadians To Watch". Since then, he has been performing primarily on the West Coast, with multiple Canada-wide tours and regular features on nationally aired CBC radio broadcasts. Fearless, Allen's 2004 release was chosen by NPR/Public Radio International jazz host Jim Wilke, as one of the "Best Pacific Northwest Jazz CDs of 2004", while his 2003 trio album Dialectic won "Outstanding Jazz Recording 2003" at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Mike has received Canada Arts Council grants over the years to study with notable tenor giants Joe Henderson, and Joe Lovano. Mike is currently Director of Jazz at Western Washington University and his quartet MAQ, the program's in-residence professional jazz quartet. MAQ performs primarily swinging original compositions with lyrical melodies.

Discography

- Mike Allen Quartet Faculty Jazz Collective Almus ALM 15177 (2012)
 - Mike Allen Quartet A Hip Cosmos Almus ALM 14722 (2011)
 - Mike Allen Quartet Vancouver Almus ALM 14302 (2007)
- Mike Allen & George McPetridge Threads Almus ALM 14202 (2007)
 - Mike Allen Quartet Love One Another Almus ALM 14062 (2005)
 - Mike Rud Live From Lotusland Cellar Live CL 041605 (2005)
- Mike Allen Trio with George McPetridge Fearless Almus ALM 12552 (2004)
 - Mike Allen Trio Dialectic Almus ALM 11092 (2003)
- Jill Townsend Big Band Tales From The Sea Pagetown PTCD-001 (2003)
 - Dave Robbins At The Mark Independent (2002)
 - Various Artists Live At The Cellar Maximum-7101 (2001)
- Sonny Greenwich Fragments Of A Memory Cornerstone CD 116 (2001)
 - Mike Allen Change Is Maximum CD-0065 (2000)
 - Bruce Nielsen Band Up For The Count BN-03 (2000)
 - Mike Allen One Side Of A Circle Almus CD-003 (1999)
 - Mike Allen One Step Closer Almus CD-002 (1997)
 - Christine Duncan Live at the Vogue CDCD-01 (1997)
 - Kathy Kidd Yemaya Suite Low Rider Records CD-0044 (1996)
 - Mike Allen Quintet/Quartet Almus CD-001 (1995)
- Pete Magadini On Drums (Then To Now) Justin Time JTR 8447-2 (1992)
 - Sonny Greenwich Standard Idioms Kleo CD-001 (1991)
 - Vikrama Experience (Live In Montreal) Unity CD-135 (1990)
 - Pete Magadini Quintet Night Dreamers Timeless SJP 317 (1989)
 - Vikrama Hands On Unity CD-105 (1988)