

# Tara Davidson

Tara Davidson is an award-winning alto and soprano saxophonist who has performed around the world at such prestigious venues as New York City's Carnegie Hall, the acclaimed North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, the International Jazz Festival in Lima, Peru, the JZ Jazz Club in Shanghai, China, and The Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C.

Davidson is a multiple JUNO Award-nominated artist. As a bandleader, Davidson has produced seven recordings since 2004 and performed on more than thirty recordings as a side musician. Five of her seven recordings as a leader or co-leader (Carn Davidson 9) have been nominated by the JUNO Awards for "Album of the Year" in the "Traditional", "Solo" and "Group" jazz categories. Her bands have been comprised of various configurations from duo to nonet and have included such personnel as Mike Murley (saxophone), William Carn (trombone), Laila Biali (piano), Kelly Jefferson (saxophone), Andrew Downing (bass and cello), David Braid (piano), and Ernesto Cervini (drums), among many others. Davidson has been associated with seven additional JUNO nominations for her work as a side musician with Andrew Downing's Otterville, Ernesto Cervini's "Joy" project, Ernesto Cervini's Turboprop (x2), the Mike Murley Septet, CBC Records' "Jazz Legends Live" project, and Jens Lindemann's Order of Canada Band (Yamaha Big Band member). In 2020, Davidson won a JUNO Award for Jazz Album of the Year: Group as a member of Ernesto Cervini's Turboprop.

Some of Davidson's other honours include being selected as the lead alto saxophonist for the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra in 2022 and for the European Broadcasting Union's "European Youth Jazz Orchestra" in 2008, being selected as one of five finalists in the Mary Lou Williams "Women in Jazz" saxophone competition in 2008 and being selected as one of three finalists for the Toronto Arts Foundation's "Emerging Jazz Artist Award" in 2015. In 2013, Davidson was awarded the Ontario Arts Council's "Chalmers Professional Development Grant" to study with saxophone legend, Dick Oatts, in New York City.

Davidson also enjoys a diverse freelance career as a woodwind player (saxophones, clarinet, and flute). She has worked with musical theatre companies such as the Stratford Festival, the Musical Stage Company (formally Acting Upstage), and Drayton Entertainment, and with such symphonies as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Ballet Orchestra, and the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony. Studio and performance opportunities have allowed Davidson to perform alongside such artists as Joel Frahm, Shirley Bassey, Oliver Jones, Tommy Banks, Wycliffe Gordon, Emilie-Claire Barlow, Terri Lyne Carrington, Jazzmeia Horn, Ingrid Jensen, Christine Jensen, Jens Lindemann, and Gary Versace.

Davidson is an active educator. She is on faculty at the University of Toronto and York University. Davidson has been a guest faculty member for the National Music Camp (NMC Jazz Faculty), Ottawa's Jazzworks Jazz Camp, the Interprovincial Music Camp (IMC Jazz Faculty), Saskatoon's TD Jazz Intensive Workshop, and the Stanford Jazz Workshop.

Tara Davidson is proud to be a Yamaha Artist and plays their Custom Z alto saxophone, Custom CSVR clarinet, and YFL-577 Series flute.