



"A revelation!"

**The Classical
Saxophone Project**



The Classical Saxophone Project creates unique musical experiences that enrich the lives those of its community and empowers individuals by collaboration, creative processes, and a passion for artistic excellence. With the voice of the saxophone, CSP, strives to achieve these goals through performing, recording, and educating the next generation of artists and listeners alike.





Conceived by classical saxophonist Javier Oviedo and conductor Jean-Pierre Schmitt in 2007, The Classical Saxophone Project has for mission to foster awareness of the classical repertoire of the saxophone. While the saxophone is widely known as a jazz instrument, the very rich “classical” repertoire written for the instrument beginning from the mid-19th century is practically unknown to the public. Although the saxophone is of French origin (Patented in Paris in 1846), it was the American, Elise Hall, who is given credit for commissioning many of the first major works composed for the instrument. A socialite from Boston at the turn of the 20th century, Mrs. Hall, née Boyer, sought out the most widely known composers of the time. Claude Debussy, Vincent d’Indy, and Florent Schmitt, among other Prix de Rome winning composers, all dedicated music to Mrs. Hall making her America’s first Classical Saxophonist. The manuscripts of most of these compositions, left to a library in Boston after Mrs. Hall’s death in 1924, were the starting point of the Classical Saxophone Project.

As a 501(c3) non-profit organization, CSP works relentlessly to introduce new audiences to the “classical” styles of the saxophone. They have even expanded the repertoire by commissioning pieces. In 2008 the artists released *The Classical Saxophone: A French Love Story* with the Orchestre Padeloup in Paris on the MSR Classics label causing a stir among music lovers and garnering acclaim from the worldwide press. The educational component of the project is essential for the two artists. Each year CSP hosts a number of master classes, lectures and symposiums in schools and universities and performs with student ensembles throughout the United States.

To promote this superb collection of musical gems, Oviedo and Schmitt have traveled throughout the world including France, Spain, and Moldova, to central Russia performing with great success. Oviedo’s interpretation of this original music charms and amazes audiences. The press has hailed the warmth and lushness of Javier’s haunting sound as a “revelation!”

PERFORMANCES

2022

January 8 - Music for Lebanon - Beirut, Lebanon

Naji Hakim's *Crux Fidelis* *World Premier*

June 2 - Season Finale in NYC - DiMenna Center, NYC

November 18 - Opening Concert - DiMenna Center, NYC

Nicolas J. Chaanine's *Transumanti* *World Premier*

2023

March 30 - New Classics - Kosciusko Foundation - UES, NYC

Jacob Laham and Ryan McNulty *Guest student performers*

April 23 - Solo Recital - National Opera Center - NYC

Suk Hee Hong *piano*

Featuring music from New York Women's Composer members

June 1 - Season Finale in NYC - DiMenna Center, NYC

Nick May *Guest artist*

CSP also presents video of live concerts and studio productions on its YouTube Channel - @classicalsaxproject

DISCOGRAPHY on MSR CLASSICS

The Classical Saxophone: A French Love Story (2008)

L'Orcestre Padeloup

Lazy Afternoon: Salon Music of Byron Bellows (2014)

St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra

Legénde by Florent Schmitt (2019)

Samsara by Hélène Rasquier (2020)

Rhapsody by Claude Debussy (2022)

Transumanti by Nicolas J. Chaanine (2022)

City of Prague Philharmonic





JAVIER OVIEDO SAXOPHONIST

Javier Oviedo stands as one of the brightest soloist performers of the classical saxophone world. Acclaimed for his lustrous tone, passionate musicianship, and formidable technique, he has kept alive the excitement and versatility of his instrument through his tireless efforts and continuous research. Javier has a big contribution not only in reviving the old compositions but also in commissioning and premiering dozens of new pieces. His debut recording, *The Classical Saxophone: A French Love Story*, features original music for

saxophone and orchestra from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The album garnered tremendous acclaim and appreciation from music critics and the public at large.

During the pandemic, Javier's performances on digital platforms include video clips and live-stream concerts with the CSP Orchestra and the Lebanese Chamber Orchestra. In 2020, he launched a series short videos of famed pieces for his audience to enjoy.

In 2019, Javier recorded *Légende* by Florent Schmitt with the City of Prague Philharmonic which was released on MSR Classics great acclaim. He will return to Prague in mid-2022 to record the *Rapsodie pour orchestre et saxophone* by Claude Debussy. Javier is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Classical Saxophone Project (CSP) in New York City. It's mission is to promote the classical (non-commercial) repertoire of his instrument. For more than 10 years CSP has provided opportunities for musicians of all levels to perform for the New York audience. CSP is a non-profit organization that preserves, promotes, and educates.


JEAN-PIERRE SCHMITT CONDUCTOR

Praised for his precision and elegance at the podium, Maestro Jean-Pierre Schmitt was trained in the purest French conducting tradition under the tutelage of his friend and mentor, the late Maestro Jean Fournet. In June 2013 he conducted the premier of "Samsara" by Hélène Rasquier at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall to great acclaim.

In France, Maestro Schmitt worked with the Conservatory Paris V youth orchestras and the International Orchestra in Paris. He has since conducted around the world, invited as guest conductor to lead both the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Macedonia, the National Orchestra of Moldova, and the State Philharmonic of Oryol in the Russian Federation.

Soon after his arrival in the United States, Maestro Schmitt was invited to conduct the Classic Chamber Orchestra of Connecticut and the New York Lawyers' Orchestra. Since then he has lead The Monte Vista Chamber Orchestra in Texas and The Louisiana Chamber Orchestra. He is the founder of The French-American Chamber Orchestra in New York, performing on New York's finest stages including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and The Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium at The United Nations.





In the world of orchestral music, the saxophone [...] has enjoyed little respect. But if the impressive playing of Javier Oviedo is any indication, that just might change.

— **Chattanooga Times Free Press**

Javier Oviedo's faultless tone is as exquisite as ever. Jean-Pierre's perfectly balanced orchestral arrangements appear on both Mayeur's, and Bozza's compositions.

— **Blog Critics Music Review**

A must-buy release for saxophone fanciers and highly recommended release for anyone attracted to genial French music of the last century.

— **Fanfare Magazine**

The three-movement suite by Grovlez is a gorgeous work which could be very popular on concert programs due to its suggestions of both Faure and Satie.

— **Audiophile Audition**

Javier Oviedo brought to Oryol, without exaggeration, a triumph of a concert. Many of us for the first time in our lives heard, not in jazz but in symphonic form, how unlimited the possibilities of the saxophone are in the hands of a great master...

— **Oryol Press**

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— **Oryol State Philharmonic**

In-born talent, excellent education, and experience allowed [Jean-Pierre Schmitt] to create a miracle with our orchestra within just one week.

— **Oryol State Philharmonic**

The music is rich, lush, and colorful, and one is tempted to praise repeatedly Oviedo's gorgeous sound, which fits these pieces perfectly.

— **American Record Guide**

Javier Oviedo is one of the newest soloists of the classical saxophone, and he has taken a special interest in bringing lost repertoire to the public.

— **American Record Guide**



CSP offers programs ranging from chamber ensemble to full symphony orchestra.

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