

MICHAEL BLAKE  
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<http://www.michaelblake.net/>

**Critically Acclaimed Saxophonist Composer, Arranger, Bandleader  
Internationally Recognized Educator and Clinician  
Recording Artist 1997-present (Intuition Music, Clean Feed Records, Songlines Recordings, Stunt Records, Palmetto Records)  
Composer-in-Residence, The Jazz Composers Collective**

#### PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- Touring and recording saxophonist, composer and bandleader, 1984-present
- Leader of the Michael Blake Trio, Elevated Quartet, Free Association, Blake Tartare, Slow Poke, Amor de Cosmos and Hellbent
- Instruments played: tenor, alto and soprano saxophone, clarinet and bass clarinet, piano
- Composed, arranged and produced ten albums featuring original compositions and/or arrangements of varied repertoire
- Performed on and organized over 50 international tours as a leader
- Headlined at countless international festivals, concert series and special events, including the Berlin Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival, International du Festival du Montreal, TD Vancouver Jazz Festival, San Francisco Jazz Festival, JVC Jazz Festival New York, Mito Settembre Musica, Seixal Jazz Festival and Copenhagen Jazz Festival, among many others
- Composed and arranged music for television and film including the theme for Sundance Channel's *Conversations in World Cinema* and Nick Jr's *The Backyardigans* (Internationally successful children's TV Show)
- Received numerous commissioning and performing grants from The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Meet the Composer, Chamber Music America and The Canada Council for the Arts
- Featured performer on over 30 live radio and TV broadcasts (national and international) including Saturday Night Live, Conan O'Brien, Sessions on West 54th, NPR, CBC, Radio Denmark, BBC, RAI among others
- Featured performer with bassist/composer Ben Allison's groups (1990-present), John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards (1990-1999), Enrico Rava, Ray Lamontagne, Steven Bernstein, Lonnie Smith among others

#### DISCOGRAPHY

##### AS A LEADER:

2012 - "The Variety Hour" (Songlines)  
2010 - "Hellbent" (Label of Love/CDBaby)  
2009 - "Control This" Duo with Kresten Osgood (Clean Feed)  
2008 - "The World Awakes/A Tribute to Lucky Thompson" (Stunt)  
2007 - "Amor de Cosmos" (Songlines)  
2007 - "Slow Poke at Home" Slow Poke (Palmetto)  
2006 - "More Like Us" Blake Tartare (Stunt)  
2005 - "Blake Tartare" Blake Tartare (Stunt)  
2005 - "Right Before Your Very Ears" (Clean Feed)  
2002 - "Elevated" (KFW)  
2001 - "Drift" (Intuition)  
1999 - "Redemption" Slow Poke (Intuition)  
1997 - "Kingdom of Champa" (Intuition) Producer: Teo Macero

##### AS A SIDEMAN (selected list):

2011 - Ben Allison Band "Action/Refraction" (Palmetto)  
2011 - Giovanni Guidi "The House Where We Lived" (CAM)  
2010 - Peter Scherr "Son of August" (1hr Music/CDBaby)  
2009 - Tommaso Cappellato "Open" (Elefante Rosso)  
2008 - Ben Allison and Man Size Safe "Small Things Run the World" (Palmetto)  
2006 - Ray Lamontagne "Til the Sun Turns Black" (RCA)  
2004 - Ben Allison and Medicine Wheel "Buzz" (Palmetto)  
2002 - Ben Allison "Peace Pipe" (Palmetto)  
2002 - Kresten Osgood "Hammond Rens" feat. Lonnie Smith (ILK)  
2001 - The Herbie Nichols Project "Strange City" (Palmetto)  
2001 - Ben Allison and Medicine Wheel "Riding the Nuclear Tiger" (Palmetto)  
2000 - The Herbie Nichols Project "Dr. Cyclops Dream" (Soul Note)  
2000 - John Lurie "The Legendary Recordings of Marvin Pontiac" (Strange and Beautiful)  
2000 - Tony Scherr "Come Around" (Smells Like Records)  
1999 - Steven Bernstein's "Diaspora Soul" (Tzadik)  
1999 - Ben Allison and Medicine Wheel "Third Eye" (Palmetto)  
1998 - Ben Allison and Medicine Wheel "Medicine Wheel" (Palmetto)  
1999 - John Lurie "African Swim" (Strange and Beautiful Music)  
1999 - John Lurie "Fishing with John" (Strange and Beautiful Music)  
1998 - The Lounge Lizards "Queen of all Ears" (Strange and Beautiful Music)  
1998 - John Lurie "Excess Baggage" (Prophecy)  
1998 - Tricky "Angels with Dirty Faces" (Island)  
1996 - John Lurie "Get Shorty" (Verve/Antilles)  
1996 - Roscoe Gordon "Let's Get it On" (Studio One/Coxsone Music)  
1995 - The Repercussions "The Repercussions" (Warner Bros.)  
1993 - Ben E. King "Shades of Blue" (Halfnote)  
1993 - "The Lounge Lizards Live in Berlin, Vol. II" (Intuition)  
1993 - Stereo MC's "Supernatural" (G street)  
1992 - Justin Warfield "My Field Trip To Planet 9" (Warner Bros.)  
1991 - "The Lounge Lizards Live in Berlin, Vol. I" (Intuition)  
1990 - Compilation "Rock, Love and Understanding" (Electra)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Visiting Artist, Instructor, 2008-present**  
**Siena Jazz Foundation, Siena, Italy**

- Summer Session: Workshop, Performance
- Spring Session: Workshop, Performance

**Visiting Artist, 1998-2005**  
**The New School Jazz Program, NYC**

- Individual Saxophone Instruction

**Saxophone Instructor, 1986-present**

- Individual Saxophone and Clarinet Instruction

### CLINICS / RESIDENCIES (selected List):

Poznan Music Conservatory (Poznan, Poland)  
Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Aarhus, Denmark)  
Oxford University (Oxford, England)  
University of London (London, England)  
University of Southampton (Southampton, England)  
Centro Cultural Vila Flor (Guimaraes Portugal)  
Souza Lima (San Paulo, Brazil)  
Koninklijk Conservatory (Antwerpen, Belgium)  
Capilano University (Vancouver, Canada)  
Vancouver Community College (Vancouver, Canada)  
Brown University (Providence, RI)  
Humboldt State University (Arcata, CA)  
Penn State University (University Park, PA)  
State University of New York (Purchase, NY)  
Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI)  
Cornish College (Seattle, WA)  
Skidmore College (Saratoga, NY)

## AWARDS

**SESAC Award For Top 5 National Radio Airplay:**

- 2006: "Mauritania" from Ben Allison's *Buzz* (#1 CMJ charts)

**Downbeat Critics Poll:**

- 2002-2010: Rising Star Saxophonist
- 2002: Rising Star Artist of the Year

## PROFILES / INTERVIEWS / REVIEWS (recent, selected list)

Music preview: The Green Mill, *Chicago Reader* 2011

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2011/03/30/reedist-michael-blake-out-of-the-shadows>

Music Review: Michael Blake at City Winery, *The New York Times*, Nate Chinen 2009

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/19/arts/music/19blak.html?\\_r=1&ref=music](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/19/arts/music/19blak.html?_r=1&ref=music)

Playlist: Reviews of Slow Poke at Home and Amor de Cosmos, *The New York Times*, Nate Chinen 2007

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/18/arts/music/18play.html?adxnnl=1&ref=music&adxnnlx=1321459456-JAQSKA3mE1e5jjKq2tdzVg>

Cover Article on Michael Blake, *JazzSpecial* (Denmark) 2007

"Michael Blake: Raw Outlet" *Downbeat*, (USA) 2005

<http://www.michaelblake.net/DBfeature.jpg>

"Michael Blake, Blowing Your Mind" *EnRoute* (Canada) 2003

<http://www.michaelblake.net/JCCEnRoute.pdf>

## EDUCATION

**Canada Council for the Arts: Grant for Professional Development, New York City, NY, 1986-1987**

- Saxophone Performance, Composition

**Banff Center of the Arts, Summer Jazz Workshop, Banff, Canada, 1984-1985**

- Instruction with David Liebman, Steve Coleman, Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler among others

**Vancouver Community College, Music Department, Canada, 1982-1984**

- Studied in Music Theory, Music History, Jazz Performance and Private Instruction

**Vancouver Technical High School, Canada, 1980-1982**

- Award for Excellence in Music

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Date of Birth:**

May 19, 1964

**Citizenship:**

Canada (US Permanent Resident)

**Languages:**

English (native); Italian (working knowledge)