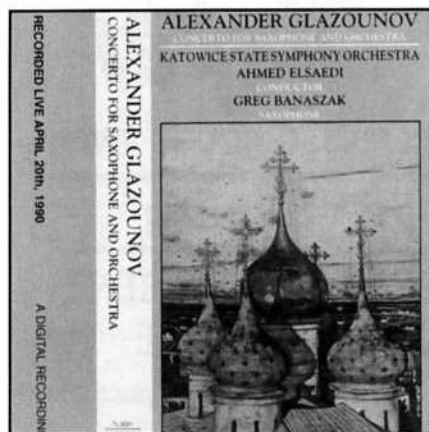


well. Wayne Shorter's *Infant Eyes* is a fine display of Coleman's ballad work on soprano. Although many tenor players insist on the soprano double a la Coltrane, George's addition of this much maligned member of the saxophone family is a true enhancement and extension of his considerable talent.

These two albums represent a welcome contrast to the intense and exciting work of Dave Liebman and Richie Beirach together and, as a jewel has many sides, displays aspects of their musical personas that tend to be neglected in their joint efforts. Perhaps this can be remedied in their next collaboration, but for now, check out these beautiful and highly entertaining sets by some of my favorite artists. ♪

Joseph E. Viola Paul Wagner



ALEXANDER GLAZOUNOV
Greg Banaszak
Chanson cassette TL-3091

Originally we received an apparently self-produced recording of Greg Banaszak's saxophone playing on which there were two classical selections and four jazz selections. This self-produced cassette has now seen new light in the form of a totally repackaged in 4-color cassette put out by Chanson. And the

cassette features Alexander K. Glazounov's (1865-1936) *Concerto for Alto Saxophone* as played by Greg Banaszak with the Katowice Symphony Orchestra of Poland. It is with the new version that we will focus our review.

The Glazounov is a difficult piece to get started. Usually the alto saxophone enters flat and immediately begins a battle of tempos with the Orchestra. Not so with this cassette recording. Greg Banaszak opens the piece well and enters with a full sound and the tempos evolve collectively and accurately, between the orchestra and saxophone soloist. Banaszak's performance is excellent and he exhibits a musical maturity beyond his years. The nuances are extremely well done and his vibrato is flexible, varying with the intensity of the music but never too heavy for the piece. His use of the altissimo register is subtle and well controlled. The cadenza is performed quite well with the staccato being extremely well executed. Banaszak's fingers are extremely well controlled.

This talented young artist is certainly someone who the saxophone world will be hearing from in the future. Greg Banaszak is an excellent performer and if his performance here of the *Glazounov* is any sample we will all eagerly await the next release by Greg Banaszak. ♪



OUR FIRST NOWELL
Texas Saxophone Quartet
World Class Recordings

The Texas Saxophone Quartet was formed in 1983 with the goal of bringing fine saxophone chamber music to the general audience. But things changed dramatically when in 1987 The Texas Saxophone Quartet won the prestigious Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Then in 1987 they were selected as a finalist in the Chamber Music Chicago Discovery Competition, and as a semi-finalist in the 1990 Concert Artists Guild open competition in New York.

As the name implies, they are home based in Texas where they appear frequently in performance. As stated on the CD liner notes they have also travelled and appeared at music conventions around the country and have been featured with the United States Navy Band in Washington, DC. They also present recitals each year at local Universities such as SMU and the University of North Texas, and they entertain regularly at the Dallas Museum of Art.

The basic quartet consists of Donald Fabian on soprano, David Lovrien on alto, Scott Plugge on tenor and Charles Coltman on baritone or bass sax. The quartet is augmented with three percussionists, and as needed two more saxophonists: Bob Seligson on alto and Greg Ball on baritone.

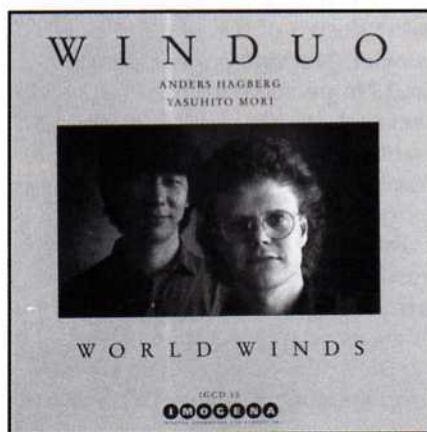
The arrangers have made delightful use of this combination of instruments and the arrangements are spectacular. The arrangements are an exciting combination of Holiday melodies we love, with moody churning harmonies. This interesting combination joins familiar songs with new and engaging harmonies. The arrangements are laced with moving and exciting counterpoint. Finally, the use of percussion is the final touch that is just perfect.

These saxophonists are all distinguished players with an ability to blend well and achieve a strong sense of ensemble. Their clear and crisp articulation is impressive. They match and blend the individual saxophone timbres well. Their vibrato is varied from a rapid style to a relaxed manner. Especially

noteworthy is their ability to keep the identity of the saxophone clear and resonant, which often isn't the case in saxophone ensembles.

Some of the applause for this Christmas CD must be given to the arrangers; Don Fabian, David Lovrien, and especially James Curnow whose arrangements are particularly spectacular.

This Christmas saxophone quartet CD is a lot of fun and a real listening gem of twenty-four of everyone's Holiday favorites from *Joy To The World* to *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. The arrangements should be permanent residents in every quartets library and hopefully these arrangers will do a lot more writing. This CD should also be on your Holiday selection list. ♪



WINDUO
Anders Hagberg
Imogena IGCD 10

Winduo is comprised of bassist Yosuhito Morl and Anders Hagberg on flutes and soprano saxophone. It is amazing the amount of sound that these performers can create. Most of the selections are originals by the performers. Their music is gentle and exciting. Anders Hagberg is an excellent flute player who is extremely conversant with the contemporary trends on that instrument. The group leans strongly to the jazz side but with an eclectic style that fits, well, almost anywhere. As a soprano sax player Anders Hagberg does a superior job on this CD. He has a strong sound that is well centered. His vibrato is tasteful, and varies, dependent on the

phrasing of the music.

The "duo concept" can work if the players are as strong as Hagberg and Mori. This duo provides so much music through their competence and expertise. They work with compound lines, and the smoke and mirrors of composition so well that the illusion of a much larger musical entity is created. Their essence of music is strong and virulent, while their performance can be at times like dew drops on spiders webs. ♪



MUSIK FÜR SAXOPHON SOLO
Ralf Geisler
PG 001

This was an ambitious project of unaccompanied solos which under any circumstances can be a very demanding performance medium for any saxophonist. Unaccompanied playing measures the performer's endurance, and on this CD saxophonist Ralf Geisler performs exquisitely. Without an accompanist all the little ticks and audible clanks of the saxophone mechanism show up, and to the performer they are larger than life. Even breathing, no matter how necessary becomes annoying to the soloists. Unaccompanied solos for melodic wind instruments are also very demanding on the listener.

Reif Geisler has prepared an incredibly diversified program on this CD, from the music of Bach's *Suite No. 2*, to Ryo Noda's *Improvisation 2 Pour Saxophone*, to Charlie Parker's *Confirmation*, and concluding with Anthony Braxton's *KSZMK PQ*

EGN. Diversity is perhaps an understatement.

Geisler has a dark sound with a nice vibrato. He really opens up with Parker's *Confirmation*. His sound changes, with some influences of Paul Desmond and Lee Konitz being quite audible. The solo was developed nicely with some excellent lines. The Anthony Braxton piece is an extension into contemporary techniques for saxophone. Again Geisler relates well to the style and charges right in. The challenge of travelling from Bach to Braxton on the same concert is a monumental musical achievement and very demanding situation. And all unaccompanied as well. This is a praiseworthy performance and demands our attention. Ralf Geisler performs magnificently. ♪

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