

Alastair Penman – Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

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Date of Birth:

10/05/1988

Nationality:

British

Education:

2023 – 2024: Guildhall School of Music and Drama

PGCert Performance Teaching (HE): Distinction

Upon completing the course, I was awarded Fellowship of Advance HE (FHEA)

2011 – 2013: Royal Northern College of Music

MMus Saxophone Performance: Distinction

Recipient of the Fewkes Scholarship and Harwood Scholarship from RNCM and a postgraduate study award from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust.

Finalist in the RNCM Gold Medal competition and Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Awards.

2006 – 2010: St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge

BA (Hons) Engineering: 2.i

MEng Information and Computer Engineering: Merit

Recipient of a Music Tuition Award and the Dudley Robinson Award from St Catharine's College.

1999-2006: Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe

A-levels:

Music – A

Maths – A

Further Maths – A

Physics – A

Music Qualifications:

Saxophone: CertGSMD (Classical Saxophone Performance) with Honours (2006)
Grade 8 (GSMD Jazz) with High Honours (2003)

Clarinet: Grade 8 (ABRSM) with Distinction (2004)

Piano: Grade 8 (ABRSM) with Merit (2005)

Teaching Experience:

- Professor of Saxophone and Chamber Music Tutor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (2020-).
- Visiting Professor of Saxophone and Electronics at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (2018-20).
- Saxophone teacher at Junior Guildhall (2023-).
- Taught classes for Royal Northern College of Music, Trinity Laban Conservatoire and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama as well as internationally at UCLA and Cal State Fullerton (USA).
- Adjudicated Harold Clarke Woodwind Prize at Trinity Laban Conservatoire (2022).
- Guest saxophone tutor for the National Youth Wind Orchestra (2018-).
- Saxophone tutor for three residential courses per year at Benslow Music (2017-).
- Saxophone, clarinet and piano teacher at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (2017-).
- Woodwind teacher and director of single reed ensemble at Hillingdon Music Service (2014-).
- Classical Saxophone teacher for the University of Liverpool (2013-14).
- Other teaching posts: Thorpe House School (woodwind & piano; 2010-11 & 2014-18), The Harefield Academy (woodwind; 2014-16), Staves Music Tuition (woodwind & piano; 2013-14), A & L Music (woodwind & piano; 2013-14), Queen Edith Community Primary School (woodwind; 2010-11), Crown House Music Academy (woodwind & piano; 2010-11).
- Taught masterclasses and workshops (individually and with my saxophone quartets) for Berkshire Maestros, Wolverhampton Music Society, Boston Music Society and York and Salford Universities.

- Delivered workshops with the Borealis Saxophone Quartet and Kaleidoscope Saxophone Quartet through Live Music Now and the Worshipful Company of Musicians. (2016-)

Other Pedagogic Activities:

- Editor and notation specialist for John Harle's seminal book *The Saxophone* (Faber Music, 2017).
- I compose educational music for saxophone and clarinet, which is published by Saxtet Publications and Sax Music Scores. Eight of my compositions appear on the current ABRSM and Trinity Woodwind Syllabi.
- I run a YouTube Channel of teaching resources, which has received over 4.8 million views and has been featured on the websites of Universal Editions and the Clarinet & Saxophone Society. The channel currently receives over 40,000 views every month.
- In conjunction with Dawkes Music, I have recorded over 100 saxophone/clarinet video demonstrations.
- I have had articles published in Music Teacher Magazine, Clarinet and Saxophone Society and by the MU.

Performance Experience:

Solo performances:

- Solo recitals at venues including Milton Court Concert Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St John's Smith Square, St James's Piccadilly, Trinity College Chapel (Cambridge) and Chichester Cathedral.
- International recitals at UCLA (USA), Zurich Arts University (Switzerland), WITS University (South Africa).
- Guest recitalist at World Saxophone Congress, European Saxophone Congress, RNCM Saxophone Day and Canterbury Christ Church University Saxophone Day.
- Understudy to John Harle for the tour of his saxophone concerto, *Arcadia*, with Birmingham Royal Ballet.
- Solo albums *The Last Tree* (2025, Meadowbank Music), *Quietude* (2024, Meadowbank Music), *Soar* (2023, Meadowbank Music), *Do You Hear Me?* (2020, Sospiro Records) and *Electric Dawn* (2015, Sospiro Records) have been described by critics in turn as "a fine album with superb music", "completely gorgeous", "an extended dazzling display of talent", "a superb mix of sounds" and "surpassingly beautiful," and have been heard on BBC Radio 3 and international radio stations.

Ensemble performances:

- Performed with orchestras including London Contemporary Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Ballet Sinfonia, London Concert Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra Chamber Ensemble and Orpheus Sinfonia.
- Performed at venues including Royal Albert Hall (including at the BBC Proms), Southbank Centre, Symphony Hall, King's College Chapel, CBSO Centre, and Montreux and London Jazz Festivals.
- Leader of the Borealis Saxophone Quartet who have given recitals at St John's Smith Square, Bridgewater Hall and Kings Place and won awards from Park Lane Group, Live Music Now and RNCM.
- Baritone saxophonist with the award-winning Kaleidoscope Saxophone Quartet.

Other Awards/Experience:

- Henri SELMER Paris Artist (saxophone, 2019-), Vandoren UK Artist (saxophone and clarinet, 2019-), Buffet Crampon Artist (clarinet, 2023-) and Key Leaves Artist (saxophone, 2024-)
- BBC Introducing Artist, both as a soloist and with Borealis Saxophone Quartet (2016-), leading to numerous live performances on BBC Radio 3.
- Winner of an inaugural City Music Foundation award (2013).
- Selected as a Park Lane Group Young Artist in duo with pianist Edward Liddall (2016) and with BSQ (2014).
- Finalist in the Royal Overseas League Competition 2014 with the Borealis Saxophone Quartet.
- As a composer, I have been commissioned by the Park Lane Group, RVW Trust and City Music Foundation. My compositions have been played on the BBC and international radio stations, performed across the globe, and recorded on numerous commercially available albums.
- Session recordings for film, TV and video game soundtracks at studios including Abbey Road (Studios 1 & 2), Air Studios, RAK Studios, Air Edel, Angel Studios, Masterchord and The Premises including for *Deadpool and Wolverine*, *A Haunting in Venice*, *Call of Duty* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.