

Pete Mills
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A native of Toronto Canada, critics have called saxophonist Pete Mills playing "virtuosic" and "gorgeous" (David Franklin, *JazzTimes*) and *The Columbus Dispatch* writes of Mills' compositions as being "impressive with solos that are ear opening...with a tone that is big and rich". Mills has received Jazz Performance Grants from the Canada Council and was a recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council Jazz Composer's Fellowship. Based in Columbus OH, he performs throughout the US and Canada. Recent engagements have included The Firefly Club Ann Arbor, Michigan; The Blue Wisp Cincinnati, OH; The Cleveland Bop Stop; The Rex in Toronto and Kenyon College. Pete's performances at jazz festivals include those at The Columbus Jazz Festival The Newark (Ohio) Jazz and Ribfest and at the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival. Pete is a member of The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of trumpeter, Byron Stripling. Mills' discography includes the Fall '07 release *Fresh Spin* (Chicken Coup/Summit Records), 2004's release on Summit, *Art and Architecture*, which received 4 stars from *All Music Guide*, was on the *Jazzweek* Top 50 radio chart for 6 weeks and received airplay on the MTV networks. The recording features drummer Matt Wilson, bassist Dennis Irwin, Pete McCann on acoustic and electric guitar and Bobby Floyd on piano. His first solo release was the critically acclaimed, *Momentum* (COJAZZ Records '98). As a sideman he appears on CDs by guitarist Stan Smith (*Pathways*), saxophonist Chad Eby (*Tryptich*), the eclectic ensemble *Madrugada* (*Madrugada*), the *Cleveland Jazz Orchestra Traditions*, the 2006 *Columbus Jazz Orchestra CD*, *The Colors of Jazz* and *The Paul Ferguson Jazz Orchestra CD Live at The Bop Stop*.

Active as a clinician, Mills presents workshops on improvisation, ensemble skills and practice techniques at colleges and high schools including The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, the Brandon (Manitoba, Canada) Jazz Festival, The Ohio Music Educator's Association Conference, The Columbus Youth Jazz Ensemble, The Ohio State University, Ashland University and Ohio Wesleyan University.

Pete holds degrees from The Eastman School of Music and the University of North Texas. His teachers have included Pat LaBarbera, Ray Ricker, Jim Riggs, and Walt Weiskopf. He currently teaches jazz studies at Denison University, having formerly taught at The Ohio State University, Kenyon College and East Carolina University.