

Andy Firth: a snapshot

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Andy Firth is widely regarded as one of the most outstanding clarinet players in the world today, having played internationally with some of the finest performers, bands and orchestras in both classical and jazz music.

His mastery of the clarinet and saxophone, unrivalled expression of tone and technique, and endless devotion and enthusiasm to the music that he plays, has earned Andy a reputation as a performer not to be missed!

Andy Firth has performed with some of the world's finest musicians: Buddy DeFranco, Ingrid Jensen, Diana Krall, Wynton Marsalis-(associate guest artist) B.B. King-(associate guest artist), Lee Konitz, Gary Motley, Jay Hungerford, Ken Kehner, Joe Berger, Bud Shank, James Moody, Don Lusher, Steve Harlos, Steve Haughton, The Dutch Swing College Band, Kenny Ball and his jazzmen and Acker Bilk. Australian artists include Maestro Tommy Tycho, Anthony Warlow, Don Burrows, James Morrison, Tommy Emmanuel, Sarah McKenzie, Liam Burrows, Marina Prior, Julie Anthony,

In 1987, Andy's arranging mentor, Maestro Tommy Tycho encouraged Andy to study and develop his own arranging and composition abilities and even gave Andy numerous lessons and compositions for him to study.

By 2003, Andy had become an award-winning composer having won awards for his music for television and film. To date, Andy has over 800 compositions to his name some of which are full scale classically oriented or chamber music works. In 2003, Boosey & Hawkes (London) published Andy's popular woodwind series "Play Clarinet with Andy Firth" and "Play Saxophone with Andy Firth", and these have now become part of the main list syllabus for Australian and other International woodwind examinations. Andy's music is now published by Accessible Music Publishing (andyfirthmusic.com), Boosey & Hawkes (London), Royal College of Music (London), ABRSM (UK), Alfred Publishing (US), Trinity College, (London).

In 2000, US mouthpiece maker, Mike Lomax (Lomax Classic) further honoured Andy with his own series of clarinet mouthpieces, the "Andy Firth Jazz Series".

Andy Firth has also worked with many of Australia's major symphony orchestras as a jazz and classical soloist with the great Australian Maestro, Tommy Tycho, who often featured him as the soloist in his musical arrangements. In April 2006 Andy Firth was honoured with an Australian MO AWARD for "Best Jazz Instrumentalist".

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Andy can also be heard playing the jazz clarinet solos on Baz Luhrmann's epic film, "Australia".

Career Highlights:

- Played a concert under his own name at Carnegie Hall, New York. Andy's guest artist was jazz clarinet legend, Buddy DeFranco.
- Performed at the Sydney Opera House as a special guest artist for Australian jazz great, James Morrison's "A Celebration of life through Jazz-A Tribute to Don Burrows".
- Performed at the Buddy DeFranco jazz festival in Montana as Buddy's guest artist.
- Clarinet soloist on Baz Luhrmann's film, "AUSTRALIA"
- Performed the Artie Shaw Concerto with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Mozart Clarinet Concerto with Sydney Concert Orchestra and the Seigmiester Clarinet Concerto with QLD symphony Orchestra.
- Performed at Monterey Jazz, North Sea & Frankfurt Jazz Festivals, Toured Japan giving Benny Goodman Tribute Concerts.
- Awarded MO Award for "Best live Jazz Instrumentalist in Australia (2006)
- Toured Australia with Anthony Warlow and Maestro Tommy Tycho.
- Guest Performer at 3 International and 4 National U.S.A Clarinet Festivals.
- Appeared as a guest clarinet soloist with the Tommy Banks All-Star Big Band with Diana Krall (Canada).
- Chosen as the Australian artist for Buffet Crampon clarinets (France), Julius Keilwerth Saxophones (Germany), Rico Reeds (USA), Lomax Classic Mouthpieces (USA).
- Toured Australia with B.B. King and the Phillip Morris Superband.

Quotable Quotes... from the critics & the players

- "Andy Firth is the first clarinetist in 30 years or so, since Eddie Daniels, that I have really paid attention to... what he can do on the clarinet, I consider to be impossible! He's a phenomenon!"

Buddy DeFranco-Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall 2008 (American Jazz clarinet legend)

- "A genius of the clarinet!"
Maestro Tommy Tycho, D.Mus, AM (Australian Music Maestro)

- "The first time I heard Andy Firth play I was amazed... that was more than 35 years ago... I'm still amazed!"

James Morrison (D Mus A.M)

- "One of the most amazing clarinetists since Benny Goodman and one of the most gifted of all clarinetists."

John Denman (US Clarinet Virtuoso)

- Andy sent me a cassette of his playing as a lad in Port Augusta. He amazed me then and what he is achieving now I can't find words for!

Don Burrows Australian Jazz Legend

- "Andy is Firth is perhaps the finest clarinetist that I have ever heard!"
Kenny Ball, UK Jazz Legend.