

## CONCERT PROGRAM

Back in the early 1920's, Vaudeville shows were the hot ticket and the saxophone was king. Over 100,000 saxophones were being sold each year and instrument manufacturers were conjuring up some extraordinary variations on Adolphe Sax's 1847 invention. Saxophobia offers a rare glimpse at some of the most unusual saxophones ever made and pays tribute to the great jazz legends who popularized the instrument. The show was conceived by Rob Verdi's love for the sax and his passion for sharing his musical instrument collection with audiences.

Today, over one hundred and fifty years after its birth, the saxophone remains a strong force in many styles of music. Saxophobia presents an entertaining, rich and riveting historical history of the saxophone and the players who gave the sax its many voices.

## MUSICAL SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

### MEET THE ARTISTS

#### Rob Verdi-Saxophones

Rob received his Music Education Degree in 1984 from Arizona State University in Tempe. While in Arizona, Mr. Verdi was a featuring soloist with the Phoenix Symphony, performed in a variety of musical ensembles, and enjoyed the challenge of teaching junior high music. In 1983 he helped form the Side Street Strutters Jazz Band, which went on to become the house jazz band of the Disneyland Resort for 22 years. Rob continues to be a regular performer at Disneyland, conducts jazz workshops for the Disney Magic Music Days Guest Talent program, and participates in a variety of musical ensembles and projects in the Los Angeles area. His passion for collecting saxophones has resulted in a collection of over 100 saxes and an additional 150 rare wind, brass, and percussion instruments. Mr. Verdi hopes to some day establish a musical instrument museum where visitors of all ages can see, hear, and even play some of these rare instruments.

#### Curtis Brengle-Piano

Curtis studied piano and music in the Seattle Wa. area, culminating in his graduation from the Cornish institute of the Allied Arts. (B.A. cum laude). He has performed professionally since the age of 18, and has since shared the stage with Tom Scott, the Pointer Sisters, Sheena Easton, Ray Charles, Englebert Humperdinck, and many others. Curtis has also played on various television broadcasts such as "Curb your Enthusiasm", "Las Vegas", "Providence", and the "Sag-Aftra Awards". Mr. Brengle now resides in the Los Angeles area as a freelance musician, touring, teaching and performing.

#### Bruce Lett-Bass

Bruce was born in Evansville, Indiana and received his musical training from North Texas State University. While at North Texas, he participated in a variety of ensembles including the elite One O' Clock Jazz Band. Mr. Lett relocated to Dallas and soon began doing professional recording sessions and jingle work for big companies such as Ivory Soap, Coke, Pepsi, and Sports Illustrated. He has toured with many famous artists such as Gerry Mulligan, Terry Gibbs, Phil Woods, and Nancy Wilson and has performed with Bette Midler, Suzanne Summers, Norm Crosby, and a host of other celebrities. He now resides in Los Angeles and continues to be very active in television commercials, recording sessions, and performing with a variety of professional musical ensembles.

#### Paul Johnson-Drums

Began his musical training in Michigan at the Interlochen Arts Academy and continued his education at Arizona State University in jazz performance. Paul's early professional career included tours with The Four Freshmen, The Ink Spots, The Four Lads, The Pied Pipers, and The Lettermen. He has backed up such stars as Sammy Davis, Jr., Milton Berle, Rosemary Clooney, George Burns, and Ella Fitzgerald. Paul also spent time on tour with Woody Herman and the Thundering Herd and played Carnegie Hall with the great Joe Williams. Mr. Johnson is currently on faculty at Saddleback College and leads his own quintet in the Los Angeles area.

#### Recordings:

Saxophobia offers CD recordings and a live in concert DVD which are available in the lobby area. Mr. Verdi looks forward to visiting with you at the CD table following the performance.

Rob Verdi uses SKB Musical Instrument Cases