



Victoria Samek MSc., ARCM (hons)
Clarinet & Saxophone
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Critically acclaimed international clarinet soloist and educator

Founder and Artistic Director of the publishing company and recording label
Clarinet & Saxophone Classics.

Personal profile

- A natural, dynamic, commanding and inspirational communicator;
- Exciting, imaginative and versatile soloist;
- Combines breath-taking technical virtuosity with musical integrity;
- Musical advocate and entrepreneur;
- Committed to contemporary music;
- Dynamic and transformative teacher and mentor;
- Specialist in bass and E flat clarinets; soprano, alto and tenor saxophones;
- Reasonably confident level of keyboard skills.

Background and education

- Czech and Hungarian parentage;
- Purcell School (1971 – 1976);
- Foundation Scholar Royal College of Music (1977-1981);
- ARCM (hons) (clarinet performance);
- Winner of the prestigious Thurston Memorial Prize;
- Principal teachers: Roger Fallows, Colin Bradbury, Antony Pay;
- Bass Clarinet & Saxophone: Steve Trier;
- MSc in Performance Science, Royal College of Music (2014-2016).

Teaching & Course Educator

- Specialist/trained mentor in performance psychology;
- Clarinet professor at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance 1999 to 2020 where in addition to instrumental tuition, gave one-to-one mentoring, learning support lectures and performance classes
- Tutor for clarinet/lecturer in performance at Goldsmiths College 1997 to date
- Principal clarinet professor plus additional saxophone tutoring at Guildhall School of Music & Drama (GSMD) 1989-2010;
- Additional duties at GSMD included wind-band deputy conducting, chamber and sectional coaching plus specialist on audition panel;
- Seven years as professor of clarinet and saxophone and performance anxiety mentor for The Royal Military School of Music /Corps of Army Music 2009-2016;
- Additional duties at RMSCM included wind-band deputy conducting, chamber and sectional coaching plus specialist on audition panel, lectures in anxieties and performance organisation;
- Ten years as grade examiner for Trinity/Guildhall Examinations;
- Trained Examiner/Assessor Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance;
- Education related posts held prior to 2010 teaching clarinet and saxophone alongside chamber music coaching, wind sectionals and lectures in performance related issues include: Framlingham College, Queenswood, Newham Academy of Music, Bath Spa University, Royal Holloway College, Pimlico Special Music;
- Two year residency in Newham with FourSight working with 3 secondary and 3 primary schools plus NewVic Sixth Form College;
- Artistic Director, course leader and management coordinator of the Clarinet & Saxophone Performance Course 2005-2013;
- Artistic Director of GSMD Clarinet & Saxophone Performance Day 1995-2009.
- Performance anxiety-related mentoring across the arts and business.

Educational philosophy

the discipline of practice, her uncompromising pursuit of excellence in performance and the love of music have shaped her musical career. Victoria's individual and holistic teaching methods have been recognised by students and teachers as taking the wellbeing of the individual as well as facilitating their progress and achievement of equal importance; fulfilment in the process and success in the outcome to give their best.

Performance and Recording activities

- Extensive discography for Clarinet & Saxophone Classics (See separate sheet);
- Solo recitals at Purcell Room (South Bank), Wigmore Hall, Major Festivals;
- Several duo recital & workshop tours to Europe, and South America for British Council;
- Extensive performances as selected artist within Menuhin's new and very ground-breaking music in the community scheme 'Live Music Now' scheme in the 1980s;
- Chamber ensembles include: Samek/Bell Duo, Samek/Brannick Duo, Four Sight and The Samek Players, (formerly ReedPlay, East Winds and The Mühlfeld Trio).
- Live and studio recordings for BBC Radio 3 & Classic FM;
- Over thirty commissions and dedications from notable composers, such as Elisabeth Lutyens, Roger Marsh, Nicola LeFanu and Thea Musgrave;
- Notable Thea Musgrave bass clarinet concerto Autumn Sonata premiered with The City of London Sinfonia, broadcast live for BBC Radio 3 and recorded with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under the direction of the composer;

- Recording of Sir Malcolm Arnold Wind Chamber Music for Naxos.
- **Full discography and press reviews available on request**

Performance and recordings released and currently scheduled for 2019-2021 (Clarinet & Saxophone Classics, Naxos and Hyperion)

- World Premiere Recording of Rob Keeley Clarinet Sonata and Clarinet Quartet for Naxos
- World Premiere Recording of vocal chamber-works by Leoš Janáček
- World Premiere performance and recording Orfeo IV by Thea Musgrave for live Eb clarinet and pre-recorded digitally enhanced Bb and bass clarinet
- World Premiere performance and recording of Malcolm Arnold Concerto No.2 arranged for clarinet & concert-band by Stephen Roberts.
- World Premiere performance and recording of Stamford Clarinet Concerto arranged for clarinet & concert-band by Stephen Roberts.
- World Premiere performance and recording of Hero Twins, a double Saxophone Concerto written for me by Stephen Roberts
- Download release of York Bowen; Fantasy for bass clarinet and string quartet
- Download release of Alain Crepin, Divertimenti for two alto saxophones and piano
- World Premiere recording of New-cross Counterpoint for clarinet and pre-recorded clarinets by Rob Howatt (New Composer Series)

Business and Company Profile

- Launched specialist CD label Clarinet Classics in 1992 now Clarinet & Saxophone Classics;
- International physical and digital distribution;
- Launched Clarinet & Saxophone Classics Publications in 2012;
- International physical distribution via June Emerson Wind Music;
- Samek Music launched in 2017 to embrace all commercial, educational and performance activities;
- D'Addario Performing Artist and Endorsee for Selmer Paris.
- Confident communication skills

Special Interests

Along with her musical and business commitments, Victoria is committed to releasing new and historical recordings as well as publishing new works to promote the rich diversity of the clarinet and saxophone. Even before undertaking the Performance Science Master's programme, to enhance her knowledge in facilitating practical as well as emotional support within her expanding responsibilities as performance coach, her curiosity led her to research in performance science related topics. These have emulated into an ever-expanding library of blogs. Following graduation, building on her master's dissertation and four further years of intensive research and writing, this has culminated in a groundbreaking approach to anxieties in learning and performance. Organise-Prioritise-Commit; The Practice and Performance Process is set to revolutionize traditional learning and performance method. Already integrated into coaching and teaching sessions with great success, OPC will be officially launched live and digitally in October 2020.

Victoria is an avid early morning swimmer and fitness enthusiast and is committed to Jewish spiritual reading.

