

**ONDŘEJ ŠTVERÁČEK – Saxophonist, composer and educator**



Born November 3rd, 1977, Most, Czechoslovakia. Starts to play clarinet when he's 10 years old, switches to tenor saxophone at 15 and joins Litvínov Big Band, where he gets prize for **best soloist** in 1995 in Czech Republic Big Band competition. In 1998 moves to Prague for studying at Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory and starts to play at Prague Jazzclubs and czech top jazz players. In 2003 finalist of prestigious International Jazz Contest Hoeilaart in Belgium.

From 2006 member of legendary **GUSTAV BROM Big Band, MATUŠ JAKABČIČ CZ/SK Big Band, EAST-WEST EUROPEAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA.**

*Debut album "ONDŘEJ ŠTVERÁČEK QUARTET – WHAT'S OUTSIDE" was nominated as THE BEST JAZZ ALBUM 2010 and second album "THE FORM" was picked as ONE OF THREE BEST JAZZ ALBUMS 2013 by jazz critics.*

### **Educator's work:**

**SAXOPHONE WORKSHOP**, Gakuin University, Kobe, Japan (August 2015)

**MASTERCLASS OF JAZZ IMPROVISATION**, Codarts University of Arts, Rotterdam, Netherlands (November 2014)

**CZECH JAZZ WORKSHOP**, Saxophone lector , Prague, Czech Rep. (2010, 2011, 2014)

**SLOVAK JAZZ WORKSHOP**, Saxophone lector , Bratislava, Slovak Rep. (2008)

**MASTERCLASS OF JAZZ IMPROVISATION**, Conservatory, Rostov on Don, Russia (September 2007)

**CZECH JAZZ CONTEST** – Head of Jury (2012-2014)

**International Conservatory of Prague**, lector of Saxophone and Jazz Improvisation (2013 – now)

**JAMU University Brno**, lector of Saxophone and Jazz Improvisation (2012)

**MASTERCLASS OF JAZZ IMPROVISATION** - Various cities in Czech Republic (2013-2015)

### **Reviews:**

*"This CD is high powered and intense with very modern overtones. I love Ondřej's sound and behind the sound. His intonation and nuances are impeccable. The band sounds like a real band. A must listen."*

**Jerry Bergonzi about album What 's Outside.**

*"When Ondřej Štveráček picks up his tenor sax, people tend to stop what they're doing and tune in. His standout bebop playing, heavily influenced and inspired by John Coltrane, has become something of a showstopper... **PRAGUE POST***

*Ondřej is an incredible saxophone player - one of the best in the world in my opinion - and I recommend you check him out if you don't know him. The night I met him, I went to a jam session, naively thinking I'd blow everyone away (thoughts like that are long gone) only to hear Ondřej busting out "sheets of sound" like Coltrane on "Black Pearls"!!!*

**Osian Roberts** (UK Saxophonist)

*Prague-based saxophonist Ondrej Stveracek and his sterling quartet are a driving force in Central Europe's thriving jazz scene and the group's stellar outing on *The Form*, is more than ample testament to this claim. A young lion from the Czech Republic, Stveracek was inspired by the music of John Coltrane and, although drawn in by his style, he clearly distinguishes himself by developing a voice of his own. The album presents an audacious session of post-bop jazz where his own musical style and the approach on such pieces as the electrifying high-octane opening title track, provide further evidence of the drift from the Coltrane influence.*

**All About Jazz** *Ondrej Stveracek Quartet: The Form (2014) - Edward Blanco (6.4.2014)*

*Ondrej Štveráček's thunderous tenor sax recalls 'new breed' reedmen like Steve Grossman and Dave Liebman who honed their sound in the billowing wake of John Coltrane's legacy. It is impossible not to hear echoes of the icon in this young Czech lion - a whole-horn, sound-for-its-own-sake approach with chops to support any idea that occurs - but he is clearly on his way to a more original concept with What's Outside. On "Out-Sight" and Coltrane's "Africa" Štveráček nearly melts the remaining varnish from his faded sax, taxing his reed with overblown immediacy while "Weaver of Dreams" reveals a gentler side; unlike his idol, he eschews 'shaggy-dog' storytelling in favor of succinct, songserving narratives.*

**TOM GREENLAND (New York City Journalist, 2011)**

*Coltrane's in the house... Eric Ineke (Dutch drummer legend) about Štveráček's playing.*

*Czech hard-bop saxophone star Ondřej Štveráček has been a rising star on the Czech jazz scene for nearly a decade, stepping out from the pervasive influence of John Coltrane's "sheets of sound" technique into a style that can veer from touchingly tender to raving with passion. A must-see... Prague Post, March 2012*

*The extraordinarily gifted tenor saxophonist Ondřej Štveráček enjoys the freedom of jazz with a similar exhilaration as other up-and-coming Czech musicians. He has been a regular member of Gustav Brom Big Band for many years now, has collaborated with the most outstanding young musicians from both the Czech and Slovak Republics as well as with artists from abroad (Jerry Bergonzi, Dave Liebman, George Mraz, Joe Cohn). Apart from activities as a sideman, he focuses primarily on his own*

*concept of playing the saxophone, undoubtedly inspired by the jazz tradition.*

*Coltrane's Sheets of Sound concept percolates through Štveráček's phrasing and his tone resembles that of his idol's as well. Coltrane and Štveráček also share great horn control and flawless technique. Štveráček is never intimidated by breakneck tempos, odd meters or complex harmonies. Even though one would be hard pressed to find a better teacher than Coltrane, Štveráček has recently been drifting further apart from his influence to find his own voice to the great benefit of himself and his listeners. He has already put out two albums with his band and is touring all major destinations in Central Europe. Both his debut *What's Outside* and sophomore release *The Form* have garnered critical acclaim.*

*No wonder Ondřej Štveráček has picked out Gene Jackson to enhance his line up to let his saxophone shine and easily blend into the group's chemistry. (JAZZFEST BRNO 2015)*

**Played with:**

Gene Jackson, Dave Liebman, Jerry Bergonzi, George Mraz, China Moses, Allen Vizutti, Paul Bollenback, Harry Sokal, Alex Sipiagin, Roberta Gambarini, New York Voices, Igor Buttman, Brian Charette, Uwe Plath, Piotr Wojtasik, Douglas Sides, Dennis Rowland, Ryan Carniaux, Kevin Mahagony, Kalman Olah, Joe Cohn, Benito Gonzales, Pogie Bell, Mel Canady, Philip Harper, Jorge Vistel, Kuba Stankiewicz, J.D.Allen, Peter Beets, Joris Teepe, Erik Ineke, Boris Kozlov, Kornel Fekete-Kovacs, Erik Doelman, Udo Van Boven, Rob Van Bavel, Eric Vaughn, Radovan Tariška, Oskar Rozsa, Osian Roberts, Tzumo Arpad Olah, Mark Aanderud, Ondrej Krajňák, Klaudius Kováč, Pavel Wlosok, Martin Valihora, Jonathan

Crossley, David Dorůžka, Pablo Held, David Patrick, Deitra Farr, Eric Allen, Jaromír Honzák, Karel Růžička, Karel Růžička Jr. , Matuš Jakabčic, Ida Kellarová, Iva Bittová, Yvonne Sanchez, Najponk, Jaromír Honzák, Laszlo Sule, Emil Viklický, Najponk, Juraj Griglák, Karel Gott, Dara Rollins and more...

**Performed at:**

Bohemia Jazz Fest - Czech Rep., Warsaw Jazz Fest - Poland, Ubud Village Jazz Festival - Bali, Indonesia, Novi Sad Jazz Fest - Serbia, Molde Jazz Festival - Norway, Bansko Jazz Fest - Bulgaria, Rostov on Don Jazz Fest - Russia, Nish Jazz Fest - Serbia, Bratislava Jazz Days - Slovakia, Brno Jazz Fest - Czech Rep., Přerov Czechoslovak Jazz Fest - Czech Rep. and many more...

**Projects:**

Ondřej Štveráček Trio/Quartet/Quintet, Tribute to John Coltrane Project, Gustav Brom Bigband, Matuš Jakabčic Bigband, Free Tenors with Harry Sokal, Štveráček / Charette / Šoltis Trio, Kaunis 5, Ben Schroeder Vintage Sextette, Erik Doelman Quintet, East-West European Jazz Orchestra, Petr Beneš Quartet and more...

Music, videos, concerts, discography and more information at [www.ondrejstveracek.com](http://www.ondrejstveracek.com) .