SAXOPHILM

Press Kit ✧ 2026







THE PROJECT

Imagine the elegance of the Jazz Age, the charm of silent film, and the grandeur of a live symphony orchestra brought together in a single performance. SAXOPHILM is a multimedia concert event featuring orchestra, saxophone, piano, harp and projected silent film clips from the 1920s. Created and led by Broadway and recording artist Chad Smith, newly created orchestrations transform the music of Rudy Wiedoeft, America's first saxophone superstar into a vibrant cinematic experience where live musicians interact with the romance, adventure, and spectacle unfolding on screen. Equal parts concert, film event, and historical rediscovery, SAXOPHILM invites audiences to experience the sound of America before the arrival of swing and modern jazz.

Often described as the "Kreisler of the Saxophone," Wiedoeft's compositions occupied a unique musical space between ragtime, vaudeville, and the earliest forms of jazz. His dazzling virtuosity, elegant musicianship, and charismatic stage presence made him one of the mostcelebrated instrumentalists of that era. Today, his music offers audiences a fascinating glimpse into how the saxophone sounded before the swing and bebop eras transformed the instrument's role in American music.

Premiered at the World Saxophone Congress in Bangkok in 2009, SAXOPHILM began as a chamber ensemble for saxophone, piano, and harp. It has since evolved into a flexible multimedia production featuring newly created orchestrations that reimagine this music on a grand symphonic scale. Blending the brilliance of a Hollywood film score with the intimacy and charm of 1920s popular entertainment, these orchestrations reveal the sophistication, humor, and excitement hidden within this remarkable repertoire.

As audiences approach the centennial of the Roaring Twenties, SAXOPHILM arrives at a particularly meaningful moment. Contemporary fascination with the era, from The Great Gatsby to vintage fashion, silent film, and Art Deco culture has created renewed interest in the music, artistry, and spirit of the period. In many ways, SAXOPHILM demonstrates that everything old can become new again.

A defining feature of the production is its integration of restored silent film footage from the 1920s. Audiences experience this music alongside beloved cultural icons including Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Koko the Clown, and the Keystone Cops. The playful humor of SAX-O-PHUN accompanies the comic adventures of the Keystone Cops, while SAX-O-TRIX showcases both Chaplin's screen magic and Chad's musical wizardry. More lyrical moments pair beautifully with rare archival footage, creating an immersive connection between image and sound.

Chad Smith performs this repertoire on vintage instruments that made the music famous a century ago. His gold-plated Selmer alto saxophone once belonged to legendary New York woodwind artist Al Gallodoro, while his 1923 Conn C-Melody saxophone represents a now-extinct instrument that was once a staple of American musical life. It's beautiful, mellow sound, close to the timbre of the tenor saxophone, brings an authentic voice to the music and connect audiences directly to the signature sound of the 20s. Part rediscovery, part multimedia, and part virtuosic concert event, SAXOPHILM bridges the worlds of classical music, early jazz, vaudeville, and Hollywood. Available in formats ranging from chamber ensemble to full symphony orchestra, the project offers a distinctive programming opportunity for pops concerts, family performances, educational presentations, film events, and celebrations of America's cultural heritage.

This music would pair beautifully with the following themes:

Hollywood Golden Age of Film,
Ragtime, Silent Movies, The Great American Songbook,
Roaring 20's themed events,
Americana.

We can also travel with a vocalist, offering a curated set. This would pair well with the music of: Irving Berlin, the Golden Age of Broadway, and the Great American Songbook.

Early American Composers such as:

George Gershwin- Cuban Overture, Girl Crazy Overture, American In Paris, Rhapsody in Blue

Ferde Grofe- Grand Canyon Suite, Mississippi Suite

Scott Joplin- The Entertainer, Maple Leaf Rag

Florence Price- Dance of the Canebrakes

William Grant Still- The American Scene, Romance

Movie night theme with John Williams' Escapades for alto sax and orchestra

1920's Overture – featuring hit songs of the period, arr. Dan Higgins

BIOGRAPHY



CHAD SMITH is a powerhouse saxophonist and elite multi-woodwind specialist whose sound has become a defining force on Broadway, in Hollywood, and on concert stages across the United States. A veteran of Broadway since 2002, he has performed in countless Broadway productions, including Legally Blonde, Follies, A Christmas Story, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and has performed at Wicked since 2008, navigating the bassoon, baritone sax, bass clarinet, clarinet and flute.

Renowned for his versatility and musicianship, Chad has appeared as a concert soloist and ensemble member with many of America's premier orchestras and arts organizations, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, New Jersey Symphony, New York Pops and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. His collaborative work spans genres and generations, sharing the stage with legendary artists such as Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Paquito D'Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Lady Gaga, Bernadette Peters, Audra McDonald, and The Temptations.

A sought-after studio musician since 2012, Chad's playing can be heard on major film, television, and streaming projects for Disney, Pixar, Lucasfilm, Netflix, and beyond, including, Star Wars: The Last Jedi, West Side Story, Lilo and Stitch, Focker In-Law, Devil Wears Prada 2, Toy Story 5, Minions and Monsters, and The Wizard of Oz (Sphere, Las Vegas). You can hear Chad on The Simpsons, Family Guy, American Dad, Ted, Star Trek, and Schmigadoon. He has also been a part of the Academy and Tony Awards' orchestras.

Committed to education and artistic leadership, Chad is an Adjunct Professor of Saxophone at Montclair State University and founder and director of its' Masters in Multiple Woodwinds program. In 2024, Chad founded the Montclair State Broadway Repertory Ensemble and the Broadway Institute for up-and-coming Broadway and commercial musicians. Chad is the creator of SAXOPHILM: Sounds and Sights of the Roaring 20's, and a frequent clinician and guest lecturer, including an appearance at the World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg. He holds a B.S. in Music Education from West Chester University and an M.M. in Saxophone and Multiple Woodwind Performance from the Eastman School of Music. Chad is a Selmer Artist and D'Addario Clinician, and performs on the gold-plated saxophones of his mentors Al Gallodoro and Ted Hegvik.

"Every performer, you can tell, is having fun. And classical music lovers deserve fun too."
-The Times (London)

"Chad Smith is a wonder at capturing the artistry of Wiedoeft, lending the saxophone a semi-comic personality with his slap tongue and staccato passages, his sinuous tone gliding through the legato lines."-
Gramophone Magazine, Adrian Edwards

"No one could do this better than the extraordinarily virtuosic Chad Smith, performing with the Sinfonia of London conducted by John Wilson. He plays with every conceivable degree of flair, suppleness, and technical mastery."
-Opus Klassiek



LYNETTE WARDLE, HARPIST

An orchestra musician, chamber musician, recording artist, and soloist, Lynette Wardle has a wide-ranging and distinguished career. Praised for her "refined tone production and spot-on rhythmic sense," she is currently principal harpist of both the Richmond Symphony and the Albany Symphony.

As an active New York City freelancer, Lynette performs regularly with the New Jersey Symphony, New York Pops, New York City Ballet, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and fills in at the blockbuster Broadway show Wicked. Her recording credits include Grammy Award-winning Albany Symphony albums as well as numerous Original Broadway Cast Recordings, including The Notebook, Camelot, Flying Over Sunset, Amélie, and Beaches. She has shared the stage and studio with Cynthia Erivo, Kristen Chenoweth, Anthony Ross Costanza, Angel Blue, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Kelli O'Hara, Megan Hilty, Trisha Yearwood, Olivia Newton-John, Father John Misty, Jason Mraz, Barry Manilow, Johnny Mathis, Marvin Hamlisch, Edgar Meyer, Yo-Yo Ma, Gil Shaham, Joshua Bell, and Pavarotti.

Lynette toured with the Tony Award-winning musical The Light in the Piazza and was featured in the New York City Center Encores! 2023 production. She is an integral part of SAXOPHILM: Sounds & Sights of the Roaring 20's, a multi-media concert production. And for the holiday seasons, Lynette has been in the orchestras for A Christmas Story: The Musical, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular with the world-famous Rockettes, and Balanchine's iconic Nutcracker. She holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, and a B.A. from the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah.



DALTON RIDENHOUR, PIANO

Has been a student of the ragtime and stride piano traditions for over 30 years. His career has spanned a variety of notable venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Town Hall, Birdland, The Newport Jazz Festival, The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, The Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival, The West Coast Ragtime Festival, The Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival, and The Blind Boone Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival. Dalton lives in New York City and performs locally and internationally with various groups including The Lovestruck Balladeers, Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks, Chad Smith's SAXOPHILM, Naomi and Her Handsome Devils, Mike Davis and The New Wonders, Goodbye Picasso, and Mona's Hot Four. He has a solo album, "Eccentricity," on the Rivermont Records label.

"There is nothing but pure joy throughout this album. Chad Smith so firmly embraces [a] smile that throughout the course of this exuberant album, listeners will have no choice but to join him in smiling."
-CULTURAL ATTACHÉ

"The virtuosity is immediate and slightly alarming — watch him perform, and you may find yourself short of breath on his behalf."
-CUMBRIA TIMES

INSTRUMENTATION

1920s Overture 6'45
Danse Hongroise 3'30
Solo Sax — 1 1 1 1— 2 2 2(T.B.) 0 — 1P — Dr—(Hp — Pno) — Strings

Saxarella 4'00 with video
Sax-O-Phun 3'45 with video
Solo Sax — 1 1 1 1— 2 3 2(T.B.) 0 — 2P — Dr—(Hp — Pno) — Strings

Valse Mazanetta 3'30 with video
Valse Llewelyn 3'00 with video
Valse Vanite 3'45 with video
Solo Sax —1 1 1 1— 2 3 3(2T.B.) 0 — 1P—Dr— (Hp — Pno) — Strings

Sax-O-Trix 3'00 with video
Cloudy Days 3'30
Saxophobia 1'45
Solo Sax — 2 2 2 1— 2 2 2(T.B.) 0 — 2P — Dr—(Hp — Pno) — Strings

Canary Cottage Medley 3'45 (piano, violin, trombone, drums, banjo (optional) and sax)
Gloria 2'50 (piano, sax and optional banjo)

Rubenola 3'00 (violin, piano and sax only) with video
Dans L'Orient 3'45 (harp and sax only) with video
Valse Sonia 3'50 (harp and sax only) with video
Saxema 2'00 (piano and sax only) with video
Saxophobia 1'45 (piano and sax only)

Optional Curated Vocal Set
Kiss Me Again 3'00 with vocalist
You Forgot To Remember 3'30 with vocalist
Solo Sax — 1 1 1 1— 2 2 2(T.B.) 0 — 1P — Dr—(Hp — Pno) — Strings
*Suggested Additional Titles
Blue Skies
Smile
April Showers

Max Instrumentation
Solo Sax — 2 2 2 1 — 2 3 3(2T.B.) 0 — 2P — Dr — (Hp — Pno) — Strings

Larger orchestration option:
Double winds
3rd and 4th horn
2nd Tenor trombone
Strings 10,8,6,4,3

Smallest orchestration option:
Single winds
No 3rd trumpet
No 2nd percussion
No banjo
Strings 3,2,2,2,1

The orchestral scores and parts for SAXOPHI1M and the 1920's Overture are included with booking

✧ Core trio is saxophone, piano and harp- no hire for these