

Allan Meyerson Biography

Allan Meyerson has been playing and teaching saxophone, flute and clarinet for 50 years. He is an accomplished classical, jazz, and blues musician. His first professional jobs in the late 60's were playing in the show bands at the many hotels in New York with as many as five different acts a night. Sight reading and the ability to switch styles were a must and those skills taught him valuable lessons in musicianship.

Growing up in New York City gave him an opportunity to study with the best musicians in the world. Meyerson started in his high school band and soon realized that, although the instruction there was adequate, it was not enough to satisfy him. He was lucky enough to find a local music teacher, Nat Shapiro, who had been a studio musician for the NBC Radio Orchestra in the 40's and 50's and a student of Ernest F. Wagner. Nat encouraged Meyerson to first study clarinet and later, flute.

In 1969 Meyerson attended Queens College, CUNY, as a music major, while playing professionally. While in college, he traveled to Manhattan weekly to study with the jazz legend, Lee Konitz, who taught him a practical approach to improvising a skill which he now passes on to his advanced students.

After college, Meyerson continued his jazz-oriented education by studying with another living legend of jazz, NEA Jazz Master, David Liebman. He studied with him for over two years on a one-to-one basis.

In 1985, he moved to New Jersey, where he could rear his family and still be close enough to New York and Philadelphia to continue developing his musical ambitions. In those years, he played with local jazz and blues groups, as well as big bands and symphonies.

Meyerson now resides in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania where he is active with the local jazz and blues scene. He was nominated for "Best Wind Instrument" in 2006 and 2007 at the LHV Music Awards; he won the award in 2008.

Over the past 50 or so years Meyerson has played or recorded with some of the best musicians in the world including: Pepper Adams, John Faddis, "Marky" Markowitz, Charles Fambrough, Jim Fielder, Marvin Stamm, Bill Warfield, Gene Perla, Tony Marino, Rob Stoneback, Bobby Radcliff, Jon Ballantyne, Adam Nusbaum, Michael Stephans, Garry Rissmiller, Craig Kastelnick, Doc Blue, Phil Markowitz, and has opened for Pat Martino.

His book, *First Steps to Jazz Improvisation*, is another milestone in his life. Upon finding that most literature on jazz improvisation was too advanced for his students, Meyerson decided to write a book for beginners. Using all the years of his teaching experience and practical ideas, he put his instructions, explanations, and examples into a logical step-by-step order that takes students on a journey from the scales they know, to jazz improvisation.

###