

Jeffrey Heisler (Concert Saxophonist)

Award-winning saxophonist, **Jeffrey Heisler**, currently serves on the faculty of Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) and Kent State University (Kent, OH). He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree specializing in contemporary music (2010) and a Master of Music degree in saxophone performance (2006) from Bowling Green State University where he studied with Distinguished Research/Artist Professor John Sampen. In addition, Heisler earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree (2003) from Central Michigan University where he studied saxophone with John Nichol.

Among his significant accomplishments was a 2005 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition 1st prize gold medal as the soprano saxophonist with the Blue Square Saxophone Quartet, a win that garnered national acclaim. Heisler has performed several concert tours throughout the United States, Italy, and France and has appeared on the prestigious *Portes Ouvertes aux Nouveaux Talents* concert series in Paris (2005). In addition, he has worked with the Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich on a transcription of her violin work *Episodes* for soprano saxophone and piano, a work of which Heisler gave the world premiere in March 2007. In the summer of 2007, Heisler collaborated with electronic music composer Morton Subotnick in creating a new version of his *In Two Worlds* for alto saxophone and interactive computer (MAX/MSP). In 2008, he gave the North American premiere of Luciano Berio's *Recit (Chemins VII)* for alto saxophone and orchestra with the Bowling Green State University Philharmonia and performed the world premieres of his composer approved transcriptions of Steve Reich's *Vermont Counterpoint* (for saxophone(s) and pre-recorded tape), Chen Yi's *Monologue* (for solo soprano saxophone), and Louis Andriessen's *Elegy* (for tenor saxophone and piano).

An advocate of contemporary music, Heisler promotes the creation of new repertoire for the saxophone by commissioning and premiering works by composers such as Louis Andriessen, Andres Carrizo, Randall Cornelison, Halim El-Dabh, David Gillingham, Marc Mellits, Timothy Stulman, Marilyn Shrude, Andrea Reinkemeyer, Steve Reich, Chen Yi, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. In addition, he has presented the American premieres of *Recit (Chemins VII)* by Luciano Berio, *Blitz* by Vincent Dunet, *Magic* by Ivan Fedele, *Entfuhrung* by Karlheinz Stockhausen and in 2009, premiered *Double Image*, a concerto for saxophone(s) and wind ensemble by David R. Gillingham.

Heisler has performed with Brave New Works, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Benny Goodman Orchestra, John Philip Sousa Band, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra, and the Stuttgart Ballet Orchestra. He is in demand as a guest recitalist and has appeared at Ball State University's New Music Festival, Grand Valley State University's Free Play Concert Series, Way Library Young Artist Concert Series, Central Michigan University's Alumni Concerts, BGSU's 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th annual New Music & Art Festivals, the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conferences, and in 2003, the XIII World Saxophone Congress held in Minneapolis. Additionally, he has been a featured soloist with the CMU Wind Ensemble, CMU Symphony Orchestra, BGSU Symphonic Band and the BGSU Philharmonia. As a clinician, Heisler has presented masterclasses at Bowling Green State University, Interlochen Arts Academy, Wayne State University, Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Malone University, and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

Other competition successes include the Outstanding Collegiate Classical Instrumentalist in Downbeat Magazine's 2002 Student Music Awards, Patricia Nixon Memorial Woodwind Competition (2002), Jack Saunders Jazz Award (2002), CMU Concerto Competition (2002), MTNA (Michigan) Collegiate Solo Competition (2002), and third prize at the 2005 MTNA National Chamber Music Competition.

In May of 2010, Dr. Heisler became the first Doctor of Musical Arts to graduate from Bowling Green State University's contemporary music program.

Medium Bio:

Award winning solo, chamber, and collaborative musician, **Jeff Heisler**, is an advocate of contemporary music and excels in traditional repertoire as well as the avant-garde. Among his significant accomplishments was a 2005 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition gold medal with the Blue Square Saxophone Quartet, which garnered national acclaim. Heisler has performed concerts throughout the United States, Italy and France, and has appeared on the prestigious *Portes Ouvertes aux Nouveaux Talents* concert series in Paris. In addition, he collaborated with the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich on a transcription of *Episodes* for soprano saxophone and piano, which was premiered in March 2007. In summer 2007, Heisler created a new version of Morton Subotnick's *In Two Worlds* for alto saxophone and interactive computer (MAX/MSP). Recently he gave the North American premiere of Luciano Berio's *Recit (Chemins VII)* for alto saxophone and orchestra with the BGSU Philharmonia and performed the world premieres of his composer approved transcriptions of Steve Reich's *Vermont Counterpoint*, Chen Yi's *Monologue*, and Louis Andriessen's *Elegy*.

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Short Bio:

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