

# Tara Davidson

## Saxophone



"...a fine player with a fertile imagination who most definitely bears watching..." - AllAboutJazz.com

Toronto-born saxophonist, composer, and bandleader Tara Davidson is earning a reputation for herself as one of the leading lights in the next generation of Canadian jazz musicians. Not yet 29 years old, Davidson has performed in over 12 countries at such prestigious venues as New York City's Carnegie Hall and The Sony Center in Pori, Finland. She has earned a Bachelor's degree for Jazz Performance, been a "Sister In Jazz", received an "Emerging Artist Award", produced two recordings as leader, two as a co-leader, received a Juno nomination, and performed on over ten recordings as a side person.

Davidson's debut recording as a leader, the **Tara Davidson Quartet**, was officially released in January 2004. The album is frequently featured on Jazz FM 91.1 and CBC National Radio stations. Her sophomore CD, ***Code Breaking***, was released in the fall of 2006. ***Code Breaking*** features all-new compositions and special guest, Juno award winning saxophonist, Mike Murley. Demonstrating an evolution in Davidson's sound and composing, ***Code Breaking*** features original compositions that are arranged for a new "electric" ensemble with saxophone, Fender Rhodes piano, and drums. The **2007 Juno Awards** nominated ***Code Breaking*** as "Traditional Jazz Album of the Year".

Davidson toured nationally as a special guest with the **Murley/Braid Quartet** in fall 2006. Following the success of the tour, Davidson officially joined the group as a co-leader with Murley and Braid to form the **Davidson/Murley/Braid Quintet (DMBQ)**. The group released their debut CD, ***DMBQ Live***, in January 2008 and toured officially as **DMBQ** in the summer and fall of 2008 to rave reviews. The group has been billed as "the best contemporary mainstream jazz group in the country".

The European Broadcasting Union singled Davidson out to represent Canada as the lead alto/soprano saxophonist in the European Youth Jazz Orchestra's 3-week 2008 European tour. The group spent three weeks traveling and performing across Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Over the course of the three weeks, the band recorded several times for the legendary WDR and an official recording will be released in 2009. In May 2008, Davidson once again represented Canada as one of five finalists selected for the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival's Women In Jazz Saxophone Competition.

Davidson's most significant musical influence has been saxophonist Mike Murley with whom she studied for five years. She is a graduate of the prestigious **University of Toronto Jazz Performance Program** where she studied with other prominent Canadian musicians such as Phil Nimmons, Paul Read, Alex Dean, and Kirk MacDonald.

Tara is currently performing nationally with her own group, the **DMBQ**, the **Mike Murley Septet**, the **Paul Read Orchestra (PRO)**, the **Andy Ballantyne Large Ensemble (A.B.L.E.)**, the **Michael McClennan Octet**, the **Duncan Hopkins Quintet**, and the **Chris Hunt Tentet**.