

John-Edward Kelly



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John-Edward Kelly was born in San Francisco. He has concertized extensively throughout Europe, in North and South America and in the Middle East, as well as in hundreds of international radio and television appearances, on film, and in 22 gramophone recordings. Having given the first performances of more than 170 works for saxophone - including 25 concertos for saxophone and orchestra - his repertoire today consists primarily of works written expressly for him.

John-Edward Kelly performs regularly as soloist with renowned orchestras and in recital with the pianists *Bob Versteegh* and *Bojan Gorišek* and founded in 1994 the *Alloys-Ensemble*. Highlights of the past seasons include performances with the *Stockholm Philharmonic*, *Helsinki Philharmonic*, *Berliner Staatskapelle*, *Munich Philharmonic*, *Münchner Kammerorchester*, *Deutsche Sinfonieorchester*, *Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester Stuttgart*, *Gewandhaus Orchester*, *Swedish Radio Orchestra*, *Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestras*, *Dresdner Staatskapelle*, *Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra*, *Swedish Chamber Orchestra*, *Residentie Orkest*, *Polish Chamber Philharmonic*, *Orchester der Beethoven-Halle Bonn* and the *Radio Philharmonisch Orkest (Holland)*, to name but a few. He has also been active as lecturer and guest-professor (London, Den Haag, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Helsinki, Rochester, Stuttgart, Lyon, Oslo, York, etc.), and has published numerous articles concerning aesthetics, contemporary music and the saxophone. Among his credits are the first-ever solo CD-recording by a classical saxophonist and the 27-nation live-broadcast world-première of Dimitri Terzakis' saxophone concerto. Extraordinary for a musician is the scope of Kelly's interests: his university studies included *Philosophy of Aesthetics* and *English Literature*; he has held courses in general music for youth, in the "art of listening" for dancers, and in acoustics for architects; and he is also active professionally as both a pilot and an advanced flight instructor.

In 1981, John-Edward Kelly was personally chosen by Sigurd Rascher to succeed him in the *Rascher Quartet*. During a decade as a member of this ensemble, he was instrumental in its development and directly responsible for many of the most renowned works of its repertoire. John-Edward Kelly plays a saxophone built in 1928 according to the original acoustical specifications of Adolphe Sax. He is currently a professor of contemporary chamber-music at the *Robert Schumann Academy of Music* in Düsseldorf. Kelly was elected as a member of the *Royal Swedish Academy of Music* in 1999, one of the most renowned honors that can be bestowed upon a performing musician. In 2000 he was furthermore appointed professor of saxophone and contemporary chamber music at the Norwegian State Academy of Music in Oslo.

From the International Press

"John-Edward Kelly is the uncrowned king of his instrument" - *Hufvudstadsbladet, Helsinki*

"John-Edward Kelly is a commanding virtuoso, capable of great intensity and tonal resource, but also restrained, at times even austere. He played beautifully, with fine feeling for the long phrase, and in the 20th century pieces rose to really impressive heights, bringing refinement, conviction and concentrated energy to the music." - *The Times (London)*

"John-Edward Kelly's Wigmore Hall solo recital on Friday demonstrated how modern composers have responded to his artistry, giving ample opportunity to exploit his phenomenal technical gifts and his easy and quite extraordinary power in the soprano register of the alto Saxophone, which imparts a searing dramatic quality." - *The Guardian (London)*

"John-Edward Kelly is a virtuoso who possesses awesome technical facility and a keen ear for beautiful tone. He's also, it seems, a musician of uncommon strength and character. His playing is charismatic, as meaningful as it is dynamic, as intelligent and thought-provoking as it is exciting and tasteful." - *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (U.S.A.)*

"John-Edward Kelly is a consummate player with a vast range of colour and dynamics, all firmly projected. His repertoire is delivered with emotional as well as technical power, with everything given exactly the weight and style required. An impressive, enjoyable and sometimes moving evening." - *Winds Magazine (Great Britain)*

"John-Edward Kelly is a phenomenon on the Saxophone. His technique is as remarkable as his memory. This master-saxophonist has also found an equal partner in the Dutch pianist Bob J.W. Versteegh." - *Neue Musikzeitung (Germany)*

"Kelly sparkled through the certainty of his execution, as well as through the rich variety of his tonal nuances, through his musical joyfulness and the liveliness of his interpretation. But what was remarkable is that, in his rendition of a simple folk-song as an encore, he was able to show yet further new tonal and expressive qualities." - *Luzerner Tagblatt (Switzerland)*

"The American saxophonist John-Edward Kelly played with the exemplary technique and stylistic insight he is renowned for through his many concerts and recordings. The concert in the *Philharmonie* and the soloist were given with the warmest conceivable reception." - *Der Tagesspiegel (Berlin)*

"Great talent rightly applied, total mastery of his instrument, outstanding knowledge of the scores (he plays everything from memory) and realization of the music with virtuosity and depth of feeling; these are the characteristic qualities of John-Edward Kelly." - *DELO (Yugoslavia)*

Concert-tours in:

Austria, Brazil, Croatia, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, East & West Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, North Africa, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, Yugoslavia

Some of the Orchestras with which John-Edward Kelly has appeared as soloist:

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra	Norwegian Winds
B.B.C. Welsh Symphony Orchestra	Orchester der Beethoven-Halle Bonn
Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra	Orquestra Sinfonica de Tenerife
Berliner Staatskapelle	Oriol-Ensemble Berlin
Cabrillo Festival Orchestra	Osnabrücker Symphonie-Orchester
Deutsche Sinfonieorchester Berlin	Ostrobothnian Chambre Orchestra
Dresdner Staatskapelle	Radio Philharmonic Orchestra
Ensemble InterContemporain	Radio-Sinfonieorchester-Stuttgart
Estonian National Symphony	Radio Symphony-Orchestra
Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra	Residentie Orkest
Florida Wind Ensemble	Robert-Schumann-Kammerorchester
Frysk Orkest (Friesland)	Sinfonie-Orchester Wuppertal
Gävleborgs Symfoniorkester	Sinfonfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks
Gewandhaus Orchester Leipzig	Sinfonie-Orchester des Saarl. Rundfunks
Hallesche Philharmonie	State Philharmonic Brno
Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra	Stockholm Symphonic Wind Orchestra
Israel Sinfonietta	Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra
Konzertverein St. Gallen	Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra
Latvian State Philharmonic Riga	Swedish Chamber Orchestra
London Sinfonietta	Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra
Luzerner Philharmoniker	Symphony Orchestra of the Czech Radio
Malmö Sinfoniorkester	Trondheim Symphoniorkester
Münchner Philharmoniker	United States Air Force Band
Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie	etc.
Norrköpings Sinfonieorkester	

Some of the Music Festivals at which John-Edward Kelly has performed:

Arsenals (Riga), Aspekte (Salzburg), Autunnale (Bergen), Berio at the Barbican (London), Musik-Biennale Berlin, Cabrillo Festival (California), Créations (Paris), Donaueschinger Musiktage, Dresdner Tage Neuer Musik, Gaudeamus Music Week (Amsterdam), Gulbenkian "Encounters" (Lisbon), Helsinki Festival, Helsinki Biennale, Holland Festival, Huddersfield Festival, ISCM World Music Days, Kaustinen Chamber-Music Week (Finland), Laplands Festival (Sweden), Festival de Lille, Ljubljana Festival, Ludwigsburger Schloßfestspiele, Maderna Celebration (Milano), Music at the Villa Massimo (Rome), Nutida Musikdagar Malmö, Oporto Festival of New Music, Radenci Festival, Retretti Summer Festival, Sibelius Summer Festival, Slovene Music Days, Sommerliche Musiktage Hitzacker, Spotlight on Finland (London), Swedish Summer Festivals, Tage Neuer Musik Bonn, Vienna Music Summer, Wien Modern, Wittener Tage für Neue Kammermusik, etc.

Some of the Radios for which John-Edward Kelly has recorded:

B.B.C. - London, B.B.C. - Wales, Bayerischer Rundfunk, BR Fernsehen, Czech State Radio (Prague), Danmarks Radio (Copenhagen), Deutsche Welle, Deutschlandfunk Berlin, Estonian State Radio (Tallinn), Finnish Radio (Helsinki, Vaasa, Kokkola), Latvian State Radio (Riga), MDR (Leipzig), National Public Radio (U.S.A.), NCRV Radio (Holland), Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Norwegian State Radio (Oslo, Bergen), ORF (Vienna, Salzburg, Linz), Radio Bremen, Radio DRS Zürich, Radio Israel, Radio NOS (Holland), Radio ORF - Salzburg, Radio France (Paris, Lille), Radio Yugoslavia, Radio Catalonia (Barcelona), RAI (Milano, Trieste), RIAS Berlin, Rundfunk der DDR (Berlin), Saarländischer Rundfunk, Sender Freies Berlin, Spanish National Radio, Süddeutscher Rundfunk Stuttgart, Südwestfunk Baden-Baden, Sveriges Riksradio (Stockholm, Malmö), Swedish Television, Turkish State Radio, VARA Radio (Holland), VPRO Radio (Holland), Westdeutscher Rundfunk, (Cologne, Bonn, Düsseldorf), etc.

Selected Recordings

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| John-Edward Kelly & Bob Versteegh, Vol. I
Works of Badings, Glaser, Mácha, Maros, von Knorr | Col legno Musikproduktionen
AU-031 805 (CD) |
| John-Edward Kelly & Bob Versteegh, Vol. II
Works of Elias, Eliasson, Hába, Kox, Reiner | Col legno Musikproduktionen
AU-031 817 (CD) |
| John-Edward Kelly & Bob Versteegh, Vol. III
Works of Rojko, Maros, Denhoff, Keuris, Terzakis | Col legno Musikproduktionen
WWE 1 CD 31885 |
| Works for Saxophone & Orchestra by Ibert, Larsson & Martin
with the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Juha Kangas, conductor | BMG Arte Nova
74321 27786 2 |
| Miklós Maros - Saxophone Concerto (1990)
Symphony Orchestra of the Czech State Radio Prague, Miklós Maros, conductor | Phono Suecia, Stockholm
PS-CD-23 |
| Pehr Henrik Nordgren - Saxophone Concerto (1995)
With the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Juha Kangas, conductor | Finlandia, Helsinki
3984-23392-2 |
| Allan Pettersson - Symphony N° 16
With the Sinfonie-Orchester des Saarländischen Rundfunks, Alun Francis, conductor | CPO, Osnabrück
999 284-2 |
| Jan Sandström - My Assam Dragon (1995)
With the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Leif Segerstam, conductor | Phono Suecia, Stockholm
PSCD 87 |
| John-Edward Kelly Alone
Solo works by Maros, LeFanu, Denhoff, Glaser, Kox | Emergo Classics, Amsterdam
EC 3932-2 |
| Hans Kox - Concertino (1991)
with the Norwegian Winds, Gerard Oskamp, conductor | Attacca-Babel, Amsterdam
9262-1 (CD) |

Saxophone Concertos by Glazounov, LeFanu & Meyer With the Netherlands Radio Chamber Orchestra Micha Hamel & John-Edward Kelly, Conductors	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam EC 3912-2 (Release in August, 2001)
Hans Kox - Through a Glass, Darkly With Bob Versteegh, Piano	Attacca-Babel, Amsterdam 9374 (CD)
Viktor Ullmann - Slawische Rhapsodie Deutsche Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Gerd Albrecht, conductor	ORFEO, Munich C 419981 A
Tristan Keuris - Laudi (1994) With the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra Jard van Nes, Soprano David Pittman-Jennings, Baritone David Porcelijn, conductor	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam EC 3933-2
Dimitri Terzakis - Konflikte (1997) The Alloys Ensemble	ProViva, Munich 7198585 (ISVP 185 CD)

Recordings planned for release in 2001:

Tristan Keuris - Three Sonnets (1989)	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam
Anders Eliasson - Symphony N° 3 (1989)	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam
Pehr Henrik Nordgren - Phantasme (1992)	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam
Hans Kox - Face-to-Face (1993)	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam
The Alloys Ensemble Music of Hans Kox , Pehr Henrik Nordgren, Werner Wolf Glaser & Stefan Thomas	Emergo Classics, Amsterdam

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