

Ed Harlow – clarinet, flute, saxophone

Saxophonist Ed Harlow cut his teeth with the big bands.

Though not of the “Big Band Era,” the music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Woody Herman did predominate his record shelf as a high school saxophone student. Later, after graduation in 1987 from The University of North Texas with a bachelor’s degree in Jazz Arranging, Harlow spent eight months touring the U.S., Canada and Japan with The Glenn Miller Orchestra.

In the early 1990’s, while working on his Masters in Jazz performance at Boston’s New England Conservatory, Harlow freelanced with The Artie Shaw Orchestra, The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, and the Boston favorite, Kenny Hadley Big Band.

There were also gigs with blues bands, Haitian bands, small jazz groups, fill in work with the Temptations, Four Tops, Platters and the Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus giving Harlow a fuller taste of the Boston music scene.

While at New England Conservatory, Harlow studied with George Garzone, John McNeil and Cecil McBee. During this period, he continued his studies in composition and arranging.

In 1995, Harlow was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to study further with George Garzone. During the days, he taught saxophone, flute and clarinet privately and wrote new and transcribed horn parts for the Blues and Haitian bands to perform and record with.

Since his time at The University of North Texas, Harlow wrote music for small jazz groups -- mostly quintets through sextets. He drew on this body of work in 1997 when he began gathering material for his debut CD, First Encounter.

On this disc, released in 1998, seven of his compositions along with two seldom recorded selections are interpreted by a contingent of Boston’s deep talent pool. Phil Grendier (trumpet), Jeff Galindo (trombone), Todd Baker and Jon Robinson (bass), Brooke Sofferman (drums), Greg Burk (piano) and Belgian Sebastiaan DeKrom (drums) appear in various configurations from trio to sextet.

In 1999 Harlow started “Nuage,” a drumless quartet with Pernille Aidt on voice, Mitch Seidman on guitar and Todd Baker on bass. A weekly engagement in Cambridge honed Nuage’s sound and gave a venue for the expansion of the group’s repertoire.

In the summer of 2002, Harlow released Two Views. On this recording, Harlow’s focus is split between six original offerings with Mitch Seidman on guitar, Todd Baker on bass and Take Toriyama on drums and five drumless jazz standard quartet arrangements featuring Nuage.

From 2001 to 2007, Harlow toured regularly with The Artie Shaw Orchestra with whom he traveled throughout the U.S., Taiwan and Brazil.

In 2005, [Advance Music](#) published three books of Harlow’s Jazz duets. Four saxophone quartets have since been added - the latest being an challenging Chinese themed romp entitled, [Galloping Thunder](#).

Also in 2005, Harlow debuted his newest band, [The Gringo Kings](#). This Latin Jazz ensemble is fronted by five horns and is backed by three rhythm sections members and represents Harlow's most ambitious musical endeavor to date.

Presently, Harlow divides his time between composing, teaching at Nashua Community College, Newton South High School and performing with [The Ed Harlow Trio](#), [The Gringo Kings](#), [Duo Andante](#) and freelancing throughout New England.

Harlow's compositions and arrangements have been featured with the [The Artie Shaw Orchestra](#) and The Boston Horns Big Band.