

# Biography, Sam Taylor

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## Short Form:

"Patiently and lovingly devotes himself to the song...Nothing but rapt attention to the song, to melody, to the way a great artist can make us feel."

-Michael Steinman, Jazz Lives

"An old soul...a mature musician who's wise beyond his years. Taylor just dishes it out straight and honest."

- Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz

"A traditionalist with a muscular sound...Plays with grace and beautiful deliberation..."

- Dan McClenaghan, All About Jazz

Saxophonist Sam Taylor is an active member of the New York City jazz community, performing at numerous venues including The National Arts Club, Cornelia Street Café, Webster Hall, Fat Cat and many others. Taylor has premiered his compositions with famed trumpeter Jon Faddis, and was invited to play for saxophone legend James Moody's 80th birthday celebration. The young saxophonist was also featured at The Nigunim Music Festival of New Jewish Music, and toured Europe as a guest soloist with The Noord-Nederlands Conservatorium Symphonic Jazz Orchestra. In 2014, Taylor was awarded a grant from The Netherland America Foundation to lead his band on a tour of Holland.

In addition to his busy schedule, Taylor recently recorded his debut album, *My Future Just Passed* with longtime partners, Taro Okamoto and Aidan O'Donnell, (released on *Cellar Live*, August 2015). This trio features three unique voices who share a passion for the folk elements of jazz. Their music touches your heart, tells a story in an organic way through beautiful melody and deep groove. Taylor's unique, authentic and sensual sound on tenor shines through.

## Full:

*"Patiently and lovingly devotes himself to the song...Nothing but rapt attention to the song, to melody, to the way a great artist can make us feel."*

-Michael Steinman, Jazz Lives

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Sam Taylor's true jazz education began during his three years at Philadelphia's High School for Creative and Performing Arts. Immersed in the deep tradition of Philadelphia's jazz community, Taylor studied and performed with Chris Farr, Matt Levy, and Len Murphy. Dedication and love for music extended into the summer months, where he participated in distinguished programs: The Tanglewood Institute, Berklee College of Music Summer Jazz Workshop, The School for Improvisational Music, and Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts. After receiving The Dennis Sandole Foundation Jazz Award, publishing in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and performing with exclusive ensembles in all major venues of Philadelphia, Sam left at the age of seventeen for New York City.

In 2001 Sam began his studies at Purchase College State University of New York. The next four years proved crucial to Sam's development, with classroom and bandstand mentoring from Todd Coolman, Ralph Lalama, Jon Faddis, Javon Jackson, Pete Malinverni and John Riley. Quickly recognized for his talent and dedication, Taylor was given an opportunity to perform in Groningen, Holland as a guest soloist with the The Noord-Nederlands Conservatorium Symphonic Jazz Orchestra. Other performance highlights included an awards ceremony for Dave Brubeck at The National Arts Club, premiering his compositions with Jon Faddis at the Central Presbyterian Church of New York City, and performing in an eightieth birthday celebration for James Moody at The Performing Arts Center. This performance with James Moody was particularly exciting, playing to a packed theatre with saxophone legends Jimmy Heath, Frank Wess, Joe Lovano, Steve Wilson, Mark Turner and Ralph Lalama.

Since graduating in 2005 with a Bachelor of Music, Cum Laude, Sam has become an active member of the New York City jazz community. Featuring his own projects and collaborations, he has performed at numerous venues including Makor, The National Arts Club, Cornelia Street Cafe, Fat Cat, and Webster Hall. Along with many private functions, The Sam Taylor Trio holds two steady engagements at restaurants in Manhattan's Soho and Harlem neighborhoods.

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