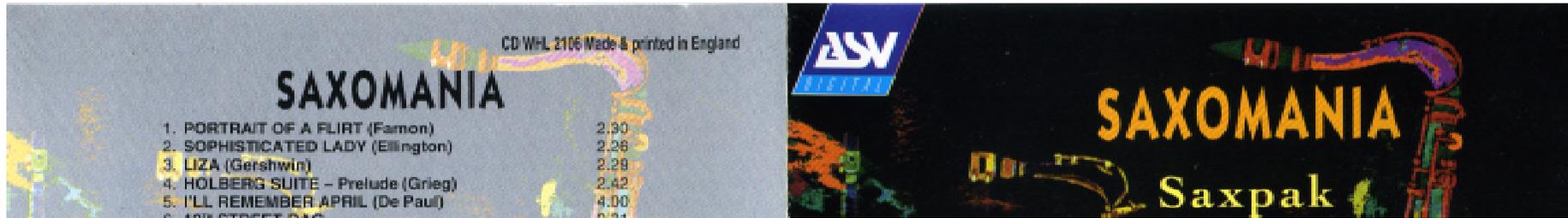


CD CASE ARTWORK (insert – front)

SAXPAK – SAXOMANIA

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CD CASE ARTWORK (insert – back)

SAXPAK – SAXOMANIA

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The saxophone evolved in the Paris workshop of the Belgian instrument maker Adolphe Sax in the 1840s. It was quickly adopted into French military bands as a useful link between the woodwind and the brass. Many 20th-century composers have included it in their orchestral scores and today it is a common sight on the concert platform. The advent of jazz in the 1920s brought it into prominence. The great players in that idiom did much to develop the sound and techniques we know today. The image of "an ill woodwind that nobody blows good" is long gone and from all quarters the saxophone is enjoying unprecedented popularity.

1. PORTRAIT OF A FLIRT

Wally Horwood in the magazine "WINDS" writes of Saxpak: "From the opening sweep of Robert Parnon's *Portrait of a Flirt* you can sense something new and exciting." Composed as an orchestral piece it adapts easily for saxophones and the Parnon Appreciation Society magazine calls it "simply superb".

2. SOPHISTICATED LADY

Duke Ellington's lush harmonies show off to advantage the homogeneous blend of the saxophone ensemble.

3. LIZA

The American arranger Bill Holcombe published a quartet arrangement of this Gershwin standard which supplied the kick-off for this version. The jazz tenor solo is played by Stan Sulzmann showing that you can swing without a rhythm section.

4. HOLBERG SUITE - Prelude

Grieg wrote the *Holberg Suite* for solo piano in 1884 and one year later made the string version that we usually hear today. The transcription of the *Prelude* includes soprano solos by Peter Davis and soprano by Richard Addison.

5. I'LL REMEMBER APRIL

While the instruments of the family blend so well in ensemble, each has its own individual character. With this in mind Saxpak like to present each of them in a solo feature. In the footsteps of that great original Charlie Parker this 1940s hit becomes a showcase for Peter Ripper's alto.

6. 12th STREET RAG

The saxophone has always been a favourite with musical clown acts. In recognition of this the group puts on its red noses and invites you to come to the circus.

7. CANDLELIGHTS

Bin Beiderbecke is revered by jazz fans as a superb cornetist but in 1930 he recorded this tune in a group of solo piano compositions. Its rich harmonies and poignant melodies seem tailor-made for saxophones.

8. HOLIDAY FOR STRINGS

In the spirit of the whole album David Rose's piece becomes a holiday for saxophonists. From the staccato opening passage to the flowing legato theme a good time is had by all.

9. STRING OF PEARLS

Arranger Gerry Gray composed *String of Pearls* for the Glenn Miller band in the 1940s. Its most memorable feature was the unusual saxophone voicings of the main theme so it falls easily into the Saxpak orbit.

10. SAXOPHOBIA

The saxophone craze of the 1920s was fuelled by the virtuoso Rudy Wiedoft playing his own compositions on C melody. Andy Findon makes this one his own with an exuberant performance on baritone.

11. WESTMINSTER WALTZ

Robert Parnon creates a lilting waltz out of the famous chimes.

12. I'M OLD FASHIONED

Jerome Kern's lovely song is presented here in a distinctive arrangement by Stan Sulzmann. The opening alto solo is by Tim Holmes.

13. FOUR BROTHERS

Composed by Jimmy Giuffrè for the Woody Herman band it features their three tenor and baritone sax section. There are solos for everybody including Dave White's bass and, to replicate the original sound, Tim Holmes switches to tenor.

14. PROMENADE

Gershwin wrote this tune for a film scene with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers walking their dogs on an ocean liner. A unique feature is Peter Ripper playing the main theme on his mezzo alto in F.

15. CZARDAS

Violinists everywhere use this Hungarian gypsy dance to show off their prowess. Now Richard Addison leaves his more familiar place in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to put on his earring and crimson headscarf and give us a taste of virtuoso soprano playing.

16. PERFIDIA

Glenn Miller utilised his trade-mark clarinet-led saxophone section to make this a hit with his USA Army Airforce Band. Saxpak substitute their characteristic open harmony voicing.

17. THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO - Overture

Mozart's genius makes this a "marriage made in heaven" so Saxpak do well to approach it with due humility. The maestro never heard the saxophone but as he did make an arrangement of his overture for wind octet perhaps he would not have disapproved of this one.

18. LOVER MAN

Another "Saxpak Concerto", this one spotlighting the warm seductive sounds of Stan Sulzmann's tenor.

19. THE CONTINENTAL

Forever associated with Fred Astaire, the group gives this tune a new twist.

20. THE GIRL WITH THE FLAXEN HAIR

The saxophone in tranquility. From the graceful opening soprano solo it seems to make Debussy's piano piece its own.

21. TURKEY IN THE STRAW

Fred Hartley's quintet arrangement of this traditional folk song was the stimulus for this tune. So "take your partners" and come to the barn dance.

22. SHEPHERD'S HEY

Percy Grainger made this composition from a morris-dance tune. When he was already a celebrated concert pianist he learned to play the saxophone, so surely he would have approved of its being "dished up" à la Saxpak.

23. NOLA

First published as a "Silhouette for Piano", Nola has since been played on every possible instrument in every conceivable way. Here is yet another one.

24. YANKEE DOODLE

Philip J. Lang made an arrangement of this American folk song for windband. Saxpak up the tempo and create this "Pun Fantasia" to conclude this Saxomania.

These sessions were supervised by the eminent soloist John Harle and the conductor Stephen Brooker. As producers they have used no studio gimmicks so that when you hear in seven leading saxophones making the most of their skills in a way they would like to think would earn M. Sax's approval.

SAXPAK

Peter Davis - soprano sax	Stan Sulzmann - tenor sax
Richard Addison - soprano sax	Andy Findon - baritone sax
Peter Ripper - alto sax	Dave White - bass sax
Tim Holmes - alto sax	

Directed by Ted White

Saxpak came into being quite by chance at a concert of the London Sinfonietta at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1986. The programme that evening required the seven saxophones, one of whom was David White. He remembered a set of arrangements his father, Ted White, had written for a saxophone septet and invited his colleagues to run through them between rehearsals. Conductor Simon Rattle heard them and characteristically decided to include them in the concert. The somewhat bizarre interlude was so well received by the capacity audience that the players felt the performance should be repeated elsewhere. There is an established repertoire for the saxophone quartet and many fine groups in existence, but a septet including the outer ranges of the family was a new departure.

Since that night, in spite of the difficulty of getting seven of the busiest freelance musicians in London together at one time, they have given concerts at the Royal National Theatre, the Barbican, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Military College of Music, Kneller Hall and numerous outdoor venues. They have broadcast for the BBC on *Friday Night is Music Night* and the *Summer Music Festival* as well as recording sessions under their own name and with a choir of 16 voices. After an appearance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Millington wrote in *The Times*: "The ensemble ranged from the soprano to the band saxophones with everything in between and White's arrangements made masterly and witty use of the characters of each instrument."

Produced by John Harle and Stephen Brooker
Recorded by Curtis Schwartz in Curtis Schwartz Studios, Berry House, Ardingly, Sussex, 28-30 September 1991 (tracks 1-3,5, 8-12, 15-18, 22-24), 4 February 1996 (tracks 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 19-21)
Designed by Studio B, The Creative People
Cover illustration by Claire-Louise Ranshaw

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CD CASE ARTWORK (tray back insert)

SAXPAK – SAXOMANIA

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SAXOMANIA

SAXPAK

CD WHL 2106

SAXOMANIA

1. PORTRAIT OF A FLIRT (Farnon)	2.30
2. SOPHISTICATED LADY (Ellington)	2.26
3. LIZA (Gershwin)	2.29
4. HÖLBERG SUITE – Prelude (Grieg)	2.42
5. ILL REMEMBER APRIL (De Paul)	4.00
6. 12 TH STREET RAG	2.21
7. CANDLELIGHTS (Beiderbecke)	6.33
8. HOLIDAY FOR STRINGS (Rose)	2.29
9. STRING OF PEARLS (Gray)	2.48
10. SAXOPHOBIA (Wiedott)	2.34
11. WESTMINSTER WALTZ (Farnon)	2.34
12. I'M OLD FASHIONED (Kern)	3.53
13. FOUR BROTHERS (Giuffrè)	3.48
14. PROMENADE (Gershwin)	2.49
15. CZARDAS (Monti)	3.16
16. PERFIDIA (Dominguez)	2.33
17. THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO – Overture (Mozart)	4.04
18. LOVER MAN (Sherman)	3.19
19. THE CONTINENTAL (Magidson/Conrad)	2.40
20. THE GIRL WITH THE FLAXEN HAIR (Debussy)	2.14
21. TURKEY IN THE STRAW (Trad. arr. Hartley)	1.50
22. SHEPHERD'S HEY (Grainger)	1.49
23. NOLA (Amot)	2.54
24. YANKEE DOODLE (Trad. arr. Lang)	1.59

Total time = 71.34

SAXPAK

Peter Davis – soprano sax
 Richard Addison – soprano sax
 Peter Ripper – alto sax
 Tim Holmes – alto sax
 Stan Sulzmann – tenor sax
 Andy Findon – baritone sax
 Dave White – bass sax

Directed by Ted White

DDD

CD WHL 2106

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SAXOMANIA

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