

Harrison Argatoff

Saxophonist, composer

Abridged BIOS

80 Words

Harrison Argatoff is a Toronto-based saxophonist and composer. His music, described as “Somewhere between Bach, BLINDMAN and Mark Turner” (Jazz Halo, 2020), strives to combine the study of free-improvised, jazz, and classical music to cultivate an enthusiastically eclectic, yet distinctly personal sound. Since graduating from the University of Toronto’s jazz program in 2018, Harrison has performed across Canada and released four innovative albums, most notably with intergenerational jazz quartet “Harrison Squared”, which features Canadian greats Mike Murley and Steve Wallace.

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Harrison was raised a Doukhobour in the interior of British Columbia, surrounded by teachings of pacifism, communal music making, and a wide sweeping respect for life and nature. After years spent stubbornly resisting piano lessons to embrace long-haired rock-and-roll guitar, at age ten he discovered, and was immediately captivated by, the saxophone.

At present, Harrison’s is primarily focused on musical development. He is currently a student of Wallace Halladay, studying classical saxophone; Sasha Rapoport, studying classical composition; and John Hollenbeck, studying contemporary composition. These mentorships, initiated in 2020 with support from the Canada Council for the Arts, have inspired a new sense of aliveness and curiosity in Harrison’s artistic practice, while continually challenging his patience and humility.