

Gordon McNeil, bio - Graduated from Newcastle College with 1st class degree in Jazz & Commercial Music in 1990, through the 90's worked as MD/saxes/flute/clarinets on cruise ships & hotels around the world - spent time working in the U.S. & Phuket in Thailand. Japan, Hawaii, Croatia & Alaska being the only places not visited!

In the 2000's Gordon became an instrumental instructor in Dundee, students attained ABRSM grade 8's on flute, sax, clarinet, oboe & bassoon as well as many jazz grade 5's including piano & trombone! Also became a regular at (good friend) Bill Kyle's Jazz Bar - sharing the stage with Jim Mullen, Valery Ponomarev (Art Blakey's jazz Messenger) & a great night with Frank Gambale sitting in, not to mention getting to play with & befriend many of Scotland's greats. Played Tenor 1 with the great Tommy Sampson's big band & the RSNO big band, also had the pleasure of gigging with Roger Ball & Molly Duncan of the Average White Band. Gigs with the Salsa Celtica big band & the Peatbog Faeries being other highlights. Played in Sacramento jazz festival in California & a run at a Las Vegas casino with Fat Sam's jump jive outfit.

Gordon has performed in the band for 15 pantomimes, depped on many theatre shows - the favourite being the 'Rat Pack' featuring the amazing Stephen Triffitt as Frank Sinatra.

In 2014 Gordon was invited to be the guest soloist for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra' homage to the great Michael Brecker - "an awesome, challenging & emotional experience." Then invited to be a course tutor from 2015 to 2019.

2015 - Camerata Orchestra gigs with the Happy Mondays & New Order.

2016 - started the Dundee (schools) Soul Jazz Collective with a focus on teaching young students classic jam session tunes & encouraging improvisation.

2017 - recorded "Silver Lined" Cd a collaboration with Scot's guitar legend Malcolm MacFarlane, of original material.

Performed in studio sessions with Vinnie Colaiuta, Snarky Puppy leader Mike League & gospel organ master Bobby Sparks on Natalia Maroquinn's recording 'Indigo' (the making of is on YouTube) also featured sax solo on the track 'X'.

2018 - performed a mini tour in Scotland with the incredible Lianne Carroll culminating in an invite to join Lianne at a packed Ronnie Scott's.

Received national tv & radio coverage for work mentoring young autistic Scottish drummer Ciarin Robert Osterberg towards his dream of studying at Berklee college of music in Boston - very proud to hand the mentoring role over to Grammy award winning drum legend Antonio Sanchez & see Ciarin 'smashing it' in classes with jazz titan's such as Terri Lynne Carrington & Joe Lovano.

Started work with Trombone legend Rick Taylor & Malcolm MacFarlane on the 'Soulbook' project - tragically Rick passed away in this year.

2019 - MD & arranger for Spatz showband "Vegas" theatre tour, a 9 piece band with 4 horns in the style of Paul Simon & Sting - classic rock & pop with heavy jazz influences, featuring the musicians in the band individually.

2020 - honourable mention in the Glasgow Herald for the Celtic Connections "Bruce Springsteen" tribute, filling the shoes of the Big Man - Clarence Clemmons, another great homage.

2021 - exited the Lockdown deputising in the horn section on the Fratelli's UK tour & with Glasgow Soul brothers Hue & Cry.

Started monthly zoom lessons studying jazz theory & improv. with one of the G.O.A.T. jazz musicians - guitarist Mike Stern.