

Steven Banks

Saxophone Faculty, Conservatory

Winner of the prestigious 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Steven Banks is an ambassador for the classical saxophone, establishing himself as both a compelling and charismatic soloist, dedicated to showcasing the vast capabilities of the instrument, as well as an advocate for expanding its repertoire. As an artist with a commitment to rethinking and expanding the boundaries of classical ansformational artists of the twenty-first

Seen and Heard International)

Banks has recently appeared as concerto soloist under the direction of Peter Oundjian, first at the Colorado Music Festival in performances of works by Glazunov and Ibert, and later with the

Façades with John Adams on Geveland Orchestra performance:

Façades, the saxophonist wove a spellbinding aria. The mellow, mournful line of his soprano sax soared over a gently throbbing orchestra, changing colors with every harmonic shift and

Players and conductor Earl Lee, as well as repeat performances of the Glazunov Concerto with the Erie Philharmonic and the Utah Symphony Summer Series in Park City, Utah. Banks makes his debut at the Spoleto Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, with the St. Lawrence String Quartet and will appear in recital at Davies Hall on the Spotlight Series of the San Francisco Symphony.

advance the careers of early and mid-career artists and support the future of classical music.

Banks regularly gives recitals at universities, performing arts series and festivals across the United States and abroad. Recital invitations this season include Festival Napa Valley, Usedomer MusikFestival, Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, Mary Baldwin University, Clemson University, Tannery Pond, Tennessee Arts Academy, Clarion Concerts, Jewish Community Alliance, Cutchogue Library and Aspen Music Festival.

Prior to his invitation as soloist with The Geveland Orchestra, Banks appeared with the ensemble under conductors including Franz Welser-Möst, Jahja Ling, Matthias Pintscher, Alain Altinoglu and Roderick Cox. He can be heard on a Naxos recording as baritone saxophonist of the award-winning Kenari Quartet.

An emerging composer, Ban

Cleveland Classical). This

season, Banks will premiere an original composition for alto saxophone and string quartet in Carnegie Hall alongside the Borromeo String Quartet. He has also recently completed commissions for the Project 14 initiative at Yale University and the Northwestern University Saxophone Ensemble.

Banks is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in music education, performance and newly commissioned works in the classical realm. He gave a talk at the TEDxNorthwesternU 2017 conference presenting his dynamic approach to overcoming institutionalized prejudices against women and people of color, and he has written and given lectures on the history of Black classical composers. He also collaborated with colleagues Anthony Trionfo, flutist, and Randall Goosby, violinist, to create the Learning to Listen roundtable, a discussion on the nuances of the Black experience in classical music and beyond. In partnership with the Sphinx Organization, they also created the Illuminate! series, which opened three essential conversations on the subject of music education, artist activism and the LGBTQIA+ community in classical music.