**INTRO**

Brecker Brothers – Dig a little Deeper
ALBUM: Back to Back, 1976
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gia0pUDAqJc&list=PL8a8cutYP7fqlqfBBBX7JZVBOHRhULKmo&index=6> play to 00:38 and fade

Welcome to Big E Radio.com. I’m Michael Kryton, the curator, and this is my inaugural edition of my show called ‘open mic’. I’d like to thank Todd Crawshaw and Mike Braniff who have been instrumental in the creation of this new, exciting radio crib. Open mic is a show that explores the connection music makes with 3 topics: musical, of course, social and political. So all the music will be connected to a storyline --- sometimes a little history, sometimes just for shitz and giggles.

The subtitle of this edition of open mic is “Sax in the Kitchen.”. So for the next hour or so, we’re going to dive into saxophone players: those who dazzled, those who innovated, those who influenced music and their genre. And, by the way, check out the roster of shows already active by going to Big E Radio.com. Not biggie radio … Big --- capital E radio.com … because we’re all very calm here. Ok. Let’s get after it.

**PLAYLIST:**

Coleman Hawkins – Emaline
ALBUM: Both from the Blue, 1934
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuNoyCcwHDA

The first 3-song segment of open mic sets some historical context. So you’re about to get a dose of early classic jazz featuring the saxophone. But, for those of you who are not entirely enamoured with jazz, not to worry. Ill be diving into other genres that feature the saxophone you might find more appealing to your tastes.

So let’s unpack the saxophone story and start with Coleman Hawkins. **Coleman Randolph Hawkins**, nicknamed "Hawk" and sometimes "Bean", was an American jazz tenor saxophonist. Hawkins's first major gig was with Mamie Smith's Jazz Hounds in 1921, and he was with the band full-time from 1922 to 1923, when he settled in New York City. Ultimately he would play with big band icons such as Benny Goodman. This song, Emaline, was written by Coleman and featured on the 1934 Goodman album, Bolt from the Blue.

Charlie Parker – Jam Blues
ALBUM: Jam Session, 1952
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXP84ijiLbg> (up to 4:02 and fade)

That’s Coleman Hawkins and Emaline. You can’t talk about saxophone players and not include altoist [**Charlie Parker**](https://www.udiscovermusic.com/artist/charlie-parker/) who made the biggest impact with a technically challenging and harmonically progressive new form of jazz called bebop, in the mid-40s. Parker’s influence was pervasive and his explorations helped to change the course of jazz, transforming it from dance music to art. In Parker’s wake came a raft of virtuoso sax symbols during the 50s, including tenor heavyweights [**Stan Getz**](https://www.udiscovermusic.com/artist/stan-getz/), Sonny Rollins, and [**John Coltrane**](https://www.udiscovermusic.com/artist/john-coltrane/), all of whom took saxophone playing to new, higher, levels of artistry while pushing jazz ever forwards.

Fast forward to the 50s. "Jam Session" is an album compiled from a 1952 jam session which brought together three of history's greatest alto saxophonists; Parker, Johnny Hodges and Benny Carter, as well as Ben Webster and Flip Phillips on tenor sax. This is the first track, and we’re just going to cover the first 4 minutes as it is substantially long. It’s a jam after all. This is Jam Blues from the album Charlie Parker, Jam Session.

John Coltrane – Soul Eyes 14:07 to 19:27
ALBUM: Coltrane, 1952
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXP84ijiLbg

Charlie Parker and Jam Session. **John William Coltrane,** an American jazz saxophonist and composer working in the bebop and hard bop idioms early in his career, helped pioneer the use of modes and was at the forefront of free jazz. He led at least fifty recording sessions and appeared on many albums by other musicians, including trumpeter Miles Davis and pianist Thelonious Monk.

From 1962 to 1965, he had a quartet that was quite prolific. This cut is from the album, simply titled ‘Coltrane’, which was released in 1962. It’s called Soul Eyes and is a nice blend of Coltrane’s technique as well as his melodic styling. Take a listen.

Brecker Brothers – Night Flight
ALBUM: Back to Back, 1976
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyqpqZCEE_4&list=PL8a8cutYP7fqlqfBBBX7JZVBOHRhULKmo&index=4>

Brecker Brothers – Dig a little Deeper
ALBUM: Back to Back, 1976
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gia0pUDAqJc&list=PL8a8cutYP7fqlqfBBBX7JZVBOHRhULKmo&index=6

Coltrane and Soul Eyes. There’s a song to have sax with. Were my lips moving and if they were moving, they were moving on BigEradio.com. We are new, we are robust. Feel free to peruse our schedule at BigERadio .com. There are many excellent and unique curators and shows. This is open mic and I’m your curator, Michael Kryton. Thanks for joining me.

I’m gonna switch gears completely now. Hailing from Pennsylvania, Michael Brecker was a tenor saxophonist who was raised on jazz and rock so that, consequently, he never acknowledged musical boundaries. He played on many pop and rock sessions in the 70s. This covers everyone from [**Steely Dan**](https://www.udiscovermusic.com/artists/steely-dan/) to Art Garfunkel. He was also a member of the SNL band in the early 80s.

In the 70s, he also shared musical duties with his younger brother, Randy, in the funky --- emphasis funky --- Brecker Brothers who more or less took jazz fusion to another level. I remember seeing the Brecker Brothers as a young man in Toronto at a club I cannot remember. I loved these guys, so it was a treat to be able to see them live. And you have to ask yourself… how does a young man in the 70s forget the name of the club where a favorite band was playing live. Todd, any insight? Anyway, I tracked down the information. It was the El Mocambo in late spring 1977. Same place and same year the Stones performed there.

Anyway enough. This is the Brecker Brothers Night Flight from the 1976 album Back to Back, which I shredded on my record player, and it will be followed back to back with Dig A little Deeper from the same album.. The two songs aptly show the scope of Brecker Brothers and their influence on this genre moving into the 80s. And I dare you not to dance.

Best Sax and Solo Riffs from the 70s & 80s
VIDEO: YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRsBvyRhyuk>
INX – Never Tear Us Apart; Foreigner – Urgent; *Ignore Sade*; Pink Floyd – Money; *ignore Spanda Ballet*; *ignore Steve Winwood*; Men At Work – Who Can it Be Now; *ignore Springsteen*; *ignore John Cafferty*;
George Michael – Careless Whisper; *ignore Glenn Frey; ignore Phil Colins;* Whitney Houston – I will Always Love You; Gerry Rafferty – Baker Street

Gerry Rafferty – Baker Street
SINGLE RELEASE: 1978
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo6aKnRnBxM

That’s the Brecker Brother with 2 cuts from the 1977 album Back to Back: Night Flight was the first which might be described as jazz fusion on steroids, and Dig a lIttle Deeper. As we get into the latter 70s and early 80s, we see artists moving outside jazz and fusion … and in fact getting into in top 40 and rock, embracing the saxophone, which has delivered some of the most iconic sax riffs in music.

Let’s have some fun and play a little sax riff guessing game. I’m gonna play 8 clips one at a time. See what you might remember. Todd, you will be the team leader representing the audience. After that, I’ll play one of them in its entirety. Sound like a plan --- of which u have no control?

**PLAY SEQUENCE:**

1. (off the top) INX – Never Tear Us Apart – Kirk Pengilly saxophonist and guitar player plus vocals

2. 0:21 Foreigner – Urgent – Jr. Walker, saxophonist, a Motown musician who stepped out on his own and ended up in projects like this

3. (1:09) Supertramp – Logical Song – John Anthony Helliwell, saxophonist, keyboard, woodwind player and backup vocalist

4. (1:56) Pink Floyd – Money – Dick Parry

Richard Parry, an English saxophonist, is best known for his solo parts on the Pink Floyd songs "Money", "Us and Them", "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" and the list goes on.

5. (3:51) Men At Work – Who Can it Be Now - Australian Greg Ham saxophonist who also played flute, organ, piano, and synthesizer

6. (5:23) George Michael – Careless Whisper – Steve Gregory who also played with Van Morrison;

7. (6:59) Whitney Houston – I Will Always Love You – Kirk Whalum, saxophonist, is an American jazz saxophonist and songwriter. He toured with Whitney Houston for more than seven years and, of course, soloed in her single "I Will Always Love You", the best-selling single by a female artist in music history. He was also featured on many Luther Vandross albums.

8. (7:38) Gerry Rafferty – Baker Street – Raphael Ravenscourt, saxophonist who was paid all of 28 pounds stirling for his performance.

Always Love You; Gerry Rafferty – Baker Street

Gerry Rafferty – Baker Street
SINGLE RELEASE: 1978
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo6aKnRnBxM

My pick --- goin’ with Gerry Rafferty. This is Baker Street, a song that never made it to an album, but did have a lot of impact for Rafferty over the years. I always loved this tune.

Quarterflash – Harden My Heart
ALBUM: Quarterflash: 1981
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqeKV2UYq1Q

Well so far, every saxophonist we have heard was a guy. What about female saxophonists. In the 1980s a band called Quarter Flash, featuring a female saxophonist and vocalist, Rindy Ross, signed with Geffen records and released their self-titled debut album *Quarterflash* in September 1981. It reached No. 8 on *Billboard'*s Top LPs & Tapes chart, and sold over a million copies, earning RIAA platinum status on June 30, 1982. The album contained the new version of "Harden My Heart", which became their biggest single, reaching No. 3 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. So, from the self titled album Quarterflash in 1981, this is Rindy Ross performing vocals and sax on Harden My Heart.

Kenny G – Round Midnight
ALBUM: Classics in the Key of G: 1999
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8NkxpNXEzc

Saxaphone meets rock with Rindy Ross of Quarterflash. Your ears are tuned to BigEradio.com. I’m Michael Kryton and this is open mic. The subtitle of this hour is Sax in the kitchen.

**Kenneth Bruce Gorelick** is an American smooth jazz saxophonist.His 1986 album *Duotones* brought him immediate commercial success. Kenny G, as he was known, is one of the best-selling artists of all time, with global sales totaling more than 75 million records. Ka-ching.

Certainly, Forever in Love released in 1993 is one of the classic Kenny G signature tunes most people will think of, but I thought I would dig a little deeper into his more traditional jazz efforts. ***Classics in the Key of G*** was his first cover album and ninth studio album. It was released by Arista Records in 1999, and reached number 1 on the Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. The piece I picked, "**Round Midnight**", is a 1944 composition by pianist Thelonious Monk that quickly became a jazz standard and has been recorded by a wide variety of artists. In fact, it is one of the most recorded jazz standards composed by a jazz musician. This is Kenny G and Round Midnight on open mic on the BigERadio.com.

(Start track) And if you’re listening with a significant other, you might want to slow dance to this one. Or you can just dance by yourself in the kitchen. After all, this show is subtitled sax in the kitchen.

Alyson Au – Force Majeure
ALBUM: Wander Wonder, 2018
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KplJzjRTA80

How can you not get mellow listening to Kenny G playing just about anything. That was The G covering Round Midnight, a classic 1944 composition from pianist Thelonius Monk. By the way, the piano player is Randy Waldman who is a prolific ivory tickler. Waldman's arrangement of the "Spiderman Theme" on his *Superheroes* album garnered the Grammy Award for Best Arrangement, Instrumental and Vocals at the 61st Grammy Awards. Waldman also co-arranged Barbra Streisand's "Somewhere", which was awarded with an arrangement Grammy in 1985.

I have 2 more for you. And I thought I would dive back into the category of female saxophonists for this next one. Female saxophonists have emerged in a big way in the 90s and 2000s. Melissa Aldana, the Chilean tenor saxophone player, is one such respected name. But I thought I would explore what’s going on here in Canada.

**Allison Au** is a young Canadian jazz saxophonist out of Toronto, and although not a household name yet, she is making serious strides. She has been nominated twice for a Juno Award for best jazz album, winning once. She graduated from Humber College's music program and formed the Allison Au Quartet in 2009.

This is from the album Wander Wonder released in 2018. The Alison Au Quartet and Force Majeure.

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Johnny Hodges – Stormy Monday
ALBUM: The Greatest Jazz Concert in the World, 1975
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz6QXKFMEDM

Canadian Allison Au and the Allison Au Quartet with Force Majeure off the Wander Wonder album.

So tell me, was the sax as good for you as it was for me? Anyway, to wrap things up, I’m going to kind of bookend things. Johnny Hodges, a jazz saxophonist known for his solo work with the Duke Ellington Band, appears on a 1967 album called ***The Greatest Jazz Concert in the World*** . It’s a live album that also features Coleman Hawkins, the saxophonist who started off this inaugural edition of open mic.

The album also features Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson, T-Bone Walker, Clark Terry and Zoot Sims. It was released in 1975, long after Coleman Hawkins left the planet in 1969. Johnny Hodges is the featured sax performance, but it was one of the final performances for Hawkins, although he is more in the background of this next piece.

This is open mic, I’m Michael Kryton, and my big thanks to Todd Crawshaw and Mike Braniff who make this all happen on Big E Radio.com. Coming up next is my fellow curator Don Bemer and the Don Bemer Show. So let’s take it out fellas. From Disc 1 (of 3 discs) of the Greatest Jazz Concert in the World, this is track 13. The legendary blues guitarist, T-Bone Walker leads the charge in a moody piece called Stormy Monday. Be safe everyone, and be kind to each other. Hey, and let’s do this again.