

Pongthipok SOOTTHIPONG aka. Tete Saxman

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Pongthipok Sootthipong aka. Tete Saxman is a jazz enthusiast and saxophonist who has a passion towards music. Having move to Singapore from Thailand for the first time in 2008 and for the second time in 2016, Tete embraces the South East Asian Culture and has been living in Singapore for a total of twelve years. Tete is a second class honours (upper division) graduate from *LASALLE College of the Arts*. He undertook a *Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Music* where he studied under Greg Lyons and has been in the Greg Lyon's *Grooveworks* mentorship program. Tete was a part of the *LASALLE JAZZ BAND* which competed at the *Thailand Jazz Competition 2019* on May 11th 2019.

Through the years, Tete has played with the *Jazz Association of Singapore Orchestra (JASSO)* and *Jazz Association of Singapore Youth Orchestra (JazzYo!)* led by Jeremy Monteiro and is a JASS associate member. Tete was also a part of the *Mosaic Jazz Fellows Program*, organized by Esplanade Theaters on the Bay in 2018, in which he studied under Chok Kerong, Andrew Lim, Tony Makarome and Joshua Wan. Tete is currently a member of *Blue Ramen*, a group formed out of the *Mosaic Jazz Fellows* program. The group consist of young talented jazz musician from the *Mosaic Jazz Fellows 2018*. *Blue Ramen* performed at the *Esplanade Theaters* in July 2018 and January 2019.

Tete underwent an internship with *We Love Jazz (SG) Limited*, directed by a renowned jazz pianist, Aya Sekine. Through out his time at *We Love Jazz*, Tete has many roles, some of which are undefined. He has helped organize events such as *We Love Jazz SG CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY 2018 and 2019* as well as the inaugural *Singapore International Jazz Battle and The Forum 2018* from September 21st to 23rd, 2018. Tete has also performed as part of the *We Love Jazz* house band with Aya Sekine, Darryl Ervin, Christy Smith, Rudy Djoe, Dawn Ho and Matin Maslan at the *Esplanade Concert Hall* for Esplanade's *FYI School's Out* project in November 2019. Aya once described Tete Saxman as 'young and hardworking'.

On the performance side, Tete has performed in various venues around Singapore such as the infamous *Blu Jaz Cafe* and *Esplanade Theaters on the Bay*, as well as brand new jazz joints such as *Maduro*. Earlier this year, Tete has a privilege to perform with Christy Smith & Friends at *Maduro*, Singapore. He performed with Christy Smith on double bass, Andrew Lim on guitar, Aaron James Lee on drums, Nicole Duffel on tenor saxophone and himself on the alto saxophone.

Apart from this, Tete also has his own project bands called *Tete & Friends* and *Tete & The Explorers*. *Tete & Friends* is a project initiated to bring good jazz music to the community as well as push the standards of Tete's jazz composition and performance skills. *Tete & Friends* consists of Tete Saxman on saxophone, Xavier Lim on piano, Eugene Chew on Bass, Govin Tan or Nathaniel Ng on drums. *Tete & Friends: The Unforeseen Standards* aims to convey the good swingin' jazz music that are not commonly played to the community. *Tete & Friends* has performed *The Unforeseen Standards* at LASALLE College of the Arts on April 23rd, 2019 and Esplanade Concourse on April 26th, 2019. *Tete & Friends* has also played at Esplanade's *Jazz in July 2019*, presenting a theme tributing to the great pianist, Tadd Dameron, called *If You Could See Me Now: A Tadd Dameron Tribute*. *Tete and The Explorers* consist of Aya Sekine, Nakano Kenji and Yap Ting Wei and aims to bring jazz music to the audience at the highest level. *Tete and The Explorers* recently played at *Maduro* on March 19th, 2019.

Tete Saxman aims to bridge the connections between jazz in Singapore and Thailand, and to strengthen the ASEAN jazz community. Tete enjoys playing music and hope to serenade his audience with his beautiful saxophone in the years to come.

Tete

