

## Spectrum Saxophonquartett

### **Friedrich Cerha** Saxophonquartett (1995)

"The Saxophone Quartet by Friedrich Cerha was finished in 1995 at the suggestion of the Vienna Saxophone Quartet and premiered on March 16, 1996 as part of the "hörgänge" festival at the Vienna Konzerthaus. This work is one of Cerha's chamber music works written in his last creative period and again contains traditional compositional elements. Cerha himself referred to the second movement as his "Janacek complex", referring to the rhythmically concise elements that interrupt the endless melodies. In order to make the work as rich in contrast as possible, Cerha changes the instrumentation in each movement; only the first and the last movements are written for the traditional instrumentation (s-a-t-b). I recall that Cerha put special emphasis on intonation at the rehearsals and that the short 3rd movement could not be fast enough for him. "

(Thomas Schön, saxophonist of the Vienna Saxophone Quartet)

[de.friedrich-cerha.com](http://de.friedrich-cerha.com)

### **Georg Friedrich Haas** Saxophonquartett (2014)

"Georg Friedrich Haas is one of the most important representatives of Austrian composers. It is therefore a great pleasure for us as saxophonists that, in addition to his numerous famous compositions, he also wrote a saxophone quartet back in 2014 that reflects his fascinating musical language. As a representative of spectral music, Haas combines the four saxophones in microtonality, with rhythmic sophistication and energetic drive through dynamic outbursts in both extremes. The result is a spherical space in which the timbres merge and confront each other in discourse. Georg Friedrich Haas has given a present to the saxophone world with a work that creates a very special moment in its elegance and power – already a standard work of contemporary saxophone quartet literature that we would not want to miss any more. "

(Stephanie Schoiswohl)

[ricordi.com/de-DE/Composers/H/Haas-Georg-Friedrich.aspx](http://ricordi.com/de-DE/Composers/H/Haas-Georg-Friedrich.aspx)

### **Olga Neuwirth** Ondate, for saxophone quartet (1998)

"Olga Neuwirth's Ondate brings together a variety of contemporary playing techniques for saxophone and leads the listener into a world of sound that encourages to fantasize. As indicated also with the title, wave-like musical moments arise, which derive from swelling and subsiding, including dynamic differentiation and multi-sound constructs. The variety of sounds, which are increased also by a changing instrumentation, from a traditional

saxophone quartet to two soprano and two tenor saxophones and finally to four soprano saxophones, create a pictorial dream world that unfolds like a story. The rhythmic precision of strictly composed bars is contrasted by the independence of each voice, which is also reflected in free sections with guided improvisation. Olga Neuwirth has succeeded in creating a captivating composition that leaves plenty of room for imagination and demands a high degree of technical precision from the performers. "

(Stephanie Schoiswohl)

[olganeuwirth.com](http://olganeuwirth.com)

**Gerald Preinfalk** La Gammonaira (2023)

"The piece was commissioned by the Spectrum Saxophone Quartet and reflects the countless options of the board game "Backgammon" – a passion that we share. The music also intends to share the impressions I collected on the Spanish finca "La Donaira", where a large part of the piece was written. The result is a kind of collage of closely interwoven scenes that illustrate the boundless possibilities of the ensemble sound of the saxophone family. Another parallel is our fast-moving times, where we have to deal with shorter and shorter attention spans. I myself am not an exception to that tendency. It's fun to develop scenes and before they call for variations, they are overtaken by the next idea."

(Gerald Preinfalk)

[klangforum.at/ensemble/gerald-preinfalk](http://klangforum.at/ensemble/gerald-preinfalk)

**Yulan Yu** Mägen, for saxophone quartet (2017)

"Cows are fascinating: they have four stomachs, eat grass and then produce milk. The inspiration for this piece somehow came with the term 'ruminatation'."

(Yulan Yu)

[yulanyu.com](http://yulanyu.com)