



vancouver new music

For immediate release

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Vancouver New Music presents

Quasar

Quatuor de saxophones

Quasar quatuor de saxophones (Montreal)
Saturday, January 30, 2010, 8PM
Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie Street

Tickets \$25 regular, \$15 students/seniors available from Sikora's Classical Records (432 W. Hastings St.), through Tickets Tonight (www.ticketstonight.ca; 604.684.2787; surcharges apply) and at the door.

"One of the most important classical instrumental groups in the country." — Kenna Burima, Fast Forward

Ardent devotees of the music of our time, Montreal's **Quasar quatuor de saxophones** is dedicated to premiering and promoting multi-dimensional contemporary music. Celebrated for their energy, audacity and exceptional technical ability, Quasar explores different aspects of artistic creation from instrumental music to live electronics, from improvisation to instrumental theatre. This evening's program will include work by Iannis Xenakis, Dániel Péter Bíró and Gilles Tremblay.

"The ease with which they negotiate complexities to produce a purely musical result is astonishing ... four amazing virtuosi." — Stephen Pedersen, Halifax Chronicle Herald

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About Quasar quatuor de saxophones:

The quartet has premiered over 50 works and constantly seeks out new works on the international scene, which they frequently integrate into their repertoire. In March 2003, they performed the first version of Klas Torstensson's triptych, *Licks & Brains*, as part of the Montréal-Nouvelles Musiques International Festival.

Quasar also regularly collaborates with other ensembles from Canada and abroad, such as the *Société de musique contemporaine du Québec*, *Viva Voce*, *Totem Contemporain*, *Sixtrum* and the *Arte Quartett*. The group's concerts are regularly broadcast by Radio-Canada and the CBC.

The quartet has performed throughout Canada and has also toured in several European countries : the Netherlands, Sweden UK, Spain, France, Estonia, Lithuania In 2008, Quasar made its American "début" in Seattle.

Quasar has been presented with 2 OPUS prizes in the '*concert of the year in new music and electroacoustics*' category for their *Électrochocs* concert (four new works for saxophone quartet and live electronics, 2003) and for their *Electro Energico* concert (2006). In 2005, Jean-François Laporte's *La plénitude du vide*, commissioned and premiered by Quasar, won the OPUS award for '*new work of the year*'.

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