



Brogue Saxophone Quartet

Brogue Saxophone Quartet to perform at Mount Allison University

SACKVILLE, N.B. – On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Brogue Saxophone Quartet will present the third in a series of winter tour dates with a concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Brunton Auditorium, on the Mount Allison University campus.

The Brogue Quartet is a newcomer to the Atlantic Canadian chamber music scene. After an initial meeting brought about by tenor saxophonist Brad Reid in early 2013, the members at that time prepared a December concert offering in Halifax, which inspired further investigation into the group's potential. In 2014, the quartet had two summer performances – Halifax's Tunes at Noon series, and a featured evening performance for the Nova Scotia Choral Federation in Berwick, N.S.

Now reaching full momentum in 2015, the quartet has found a perfectly matched, if somewhat small, venue to kick off the tour, in the Visual Voice Fine Arts Gallery on Feb. 4, in Truro, N.S. This past fall, the gallery held a Creative Concert Series, with artists ranging from Symphony Nova Scotia's principle cellist Norman Adams, to the often electrifying guitar sounds of Geordie Haley.

As their website (www.visual-voice.ca/fin-eart) states: "From the seasoned artist to the newly-discovered, Visual Voice represents artists in a variety of media and styles, with a mandate to indulge the senses, enrich the local art scene, and raise the general appreciation of art."

Appropriately, the Brogue Quartet seems to embody the same mandate, with the seasoned James Kalyn (Cleveland Orchestra), to the youngest member Catherine Hatt (Band of the Ceremonial Guard, Ottawa). Stylistically, alto saxophonist Tristan De Borba considers himself a strictly classical player (with an upcoming performance with Symphony Nova Scotia), while Reid (Neptune Theatre – Avenue Q, Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd), the ensemble's tenor saxophonist brings his jazz background, and woodwind doubling to the mix.

Also a doubler, Kalyn brought up the idea of incorporating other instruments into the quartet with Reid, and beginning this February, audiences will in fact see all members of the Brogue Saxophone Quartet playing more than one instrument on some arrangements.

Relying in part on funding provided by Mount Allison University, where Kalyn currently teaches single reeds and conducting, the Brogue Quartet has prepared a repertoire of what they call "crossover" selections. The program will include suites by Gordon Goodwin, David Kechley, and Bob Mintzer, as well as Thierry Escaich's Tango Virtuoso. Original arrangements by Kalyn and Reid will also be featured, as well as a few surprises.

Dates leading up to the Brogue Saxophone Quartet's Sackville performance include Feb. 4 (Truro), Feb. 5 (Antigonish), Feb. 9 (Wolfville), and one later date in Halifax, on Feb. 12. Find more info online at www.brogue-quartet.ca.