



GERRY HÉBERT

Whether performing, recording, teaching, working as an artistic director or serving as an executive for organizations that further music programs and culture, Gerry Hébert has always been a strong advocate for the live music scene in Alberta and beyond.

Throughout his impressive list of accomplishments the same message continually percolates to the surface: Hébert is dedicated to bringing out the musical best in everyone. This dedication is evidenced in producing concerts and recordings in which all participants are challenged and engaged creatively and expressively. At these moments, Hébert's music takes flight and inspires the listener to explore creative and emotional possibilities. The same applies in classrooms and clinics where Hébert works with students and professionals who are invited to excel and learn to love the process.

Ask anyone about music in Calgary and Hébert's name is likely to come up. When Calgary Inc. featured him in its annual Top 40 under 40 award, the magazine said, "He has helped raise Calgary's profile in the national and international jazz community by making the city a destination for musicians." His reputation and propensity for undertaking large-scale projects has been a large part of this success.

Hébert was the artistic director of destination central for jazz in Calgary, the Beat Niq Jazz & Social Club, for 12 years. He was a founder and director of the Calgary Youth Jazz Orchestra, and served 2 terms as president of the Calgary Musicians Association. Currently he is President for JazzYYC, Calgary's Jazz Collaborative (www.jazzyyc.com). He studied music in Paris, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Grande Prairie Regional College and the University of Calgary, where he received his bachelor of music with a major in secondary education in 1990.

Born and raised in Alberta, Hébert has worked as a professional musician for more than 30 years and has enjoyed a busy playing career that included being a founding member of The Swinging Bovines, a professional touring saxophone quartet that played over 500 concerts internationally. His performance credits include many appearances with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, multiple professional theatre productions, the Calgary Jazz Orchestra and his own Gerry Hébert Quartet which has released 3 CD recordings. Overall he has appeared on over 25 CD recordings and numerous television and radio broadcasts. Among the most recent praises sung for his recordings by such luminaries as Canadian band leader Hugh Fraser and international jazz master Kenny Werner, who said "Gerry has created an environment and it's what makes jazz more interesting than a series of solos. . . "