

60 Second Interview with Sam Adams, Music Teacher



What did you study at university?

I started off with an access course in BA Hons Music and went on to study BA Hons Music (Jazz Studies) at Middlesex University. I didn't actually study Music while at school. I got into bands and performing shortly after.

What musical instruments do you play?

I play the saxophone. I chose to play this instrument after looking through my dad's record collection. I found an interesting looking cover of a saxophone player (Charlie Parker) and played it. I was instantly switched onto the music. I was 16. Quite old to start. I learned to read music formally and just kept going.

What is your favourite genre of music?

I like jazz, funk, soul and reggae music.



Tell us about your tribute band 'And Finally Phil Collins'

'And Finally... Phil Collins' is recognised throughout the industry as the market leaders and definitive Phil Collins and Genesis tribute show. This truly amazing eleven-piece band, which includes the 'And Finally Horns', faithfully re-creates all the classic hits from the Phil Collins and Genesis timeless back catalogue. I am very proud to say that last year, for the second time running, the band was named the official UK No.1 Tribute Band by the Agents Association of Great Britain at the National Tribute Music Awards!

We are set to commemorate our 10 year anniversary with a tour across the UK and France. We'll be performing at the Hub Theatre on 5 May. This is our FIRST EVER performance in Southampton, which coincides with the 40th anniversary year of Phil Collins' performance in the city. I'm really excited that our support act for this performance will feature two of my own students, who will be covering music from the eighties.

What sort of advice and mentoring do you give to your students around gigging?

I always try to give my students as many experiences in performing in front of an audience as I can. I tell them that playing their pieces is just the first stage. Learning stage craft and developing individuality is integral. Students could start with jam sessions, testing out a few songs, and then work to create their own bands. Promoting themselves is also very important.

What other types of gigs have you performed in, alongside your students?

We recently performed together at the Turner Sims theatre, supporting a concert that marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of four jazz greats, 'A Journey with the Giants of Jazz'. This was a collaboration between schools and colleges, Southampton Music Hub and The Tomorrow's Warriors - an established and well respected collective of jazz educators.



Other than this, we performed together for the Mayor Making ceremonies and for dignitaries at the Opening Ceremony of Black History Month in the City for the last five years.