



ROB HALL Biography

"Engaging ... I was immediately drawn in." (Musician magazine)

"Saxophonist Rob Hall has made a substantial impression on both the local and European scenes in recent years." (The Guardian)

"... a talent blessed with a staggering technique." (City Life, Manchester)

"Hall has strong ideas and a playful sense of form." (Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD)

"It's encouraging to hear a musician like Rob Hall blowing saxophone and clarinet in such a melodious way" (Jazz Journal International)

"Vibrant, often evocative ... he has a gift for writing bright, sinuous melodies over attractive rhythmic grooves fleshed out in turn with rich and often intricate harmonies." (The Scotsman)

After gaining a music degree and diplomas at **Manchester University** and the **Royal Northern College of Music**, Rob won a scholarship worth half fees to study at **Berklee College of Music** in the USA specialising on both saxophones and clarinet. Tours, performances and recordings, including radio and television, have taken him across the UK, Europe and US.

Rob has performed and/or recorded with **Mike Stern**, **Dan Gottlieb**, **Kenny Wheeler**, **Jim Mullen**, **Philipp van Endert**, **Simon Thoumire Orchestra**, **Anne Martin**, **Matthew Herbert**, **Chick Lyall**, **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**, **Scottish Ballet**, **Paragon Ensemble Scotland** and many others. Festival appearances include **Edinburgh International and Jazz** festivals, **Bath**, **Cheltenham**, **Celtic Connections**, **Prague International**, **BBC Proms** as well as being a featured artist at **Liverpool Jazz** festival, the **Highland** festival, and **Glastonbury Jazz Stage**.

His debut CD ***Open Up*** (FMR), which features guitarist Jim Mullen, attracted much media attention and excellent reviews. A 2nd CD release ***Heading North*** (FMR) enjoyed similar success. In 2001 Rob was commissioned as both composer and performer by the **Highland Festival** to collaborate with visual artists **John McGeogh** (video) and **James Hawkins** (artist). Rob's 3rd FMR recording ***Free-world Music*** with his innovative and experimental quartet ***Freewheelers*** was released in July 2002. 2005 saw the release of ***The Beaten Path*** (FMR) with pianist/composer **Chick Lyall** with a second CD ***Rhyme or Reason*** released in 2009 funded by the **Scottish Arts Council**. 2010 saw the premiere of ***Borderland*** a large scale commission for big band. Broadcasts, both recorded and live, have included **BBC Radio2**, **BBC Radio3**, **JazzFM**, **BBC Scotland** and others.

Rob is committed to education work and runs a number of projects including **Jazz Course UK**, **The Music Workshop** in Clyde Valley and the **Sound:Base** education project in Glasgow. Since 2003 he has been an **ABRSM Jazz examiner** and Saxophone/Jazz Saxophone instructor at one of Scotland's top independent schools **Dollar Academy**. For 8 years Rob lectured in jazz at the **RSAMD** and for 3 years he was Artist in Residence in Ayr with **WEA Scotland**. Rob is an active composer and has written music for large and small ensembles and solo works.

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