

Bence Szepesi - clarinet/saxophone

Bence Szepesi has achieved considerable recognition both in his native Hungary and around the world. A graduate of the Béla Bartók Conservatoire of Music, Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. He currently holds a number of positions: he is the President of the Hungarian Clarinet

and Saxophone Society, Principal Clarinet of the Dohnányi Symphony Orchestra in Budapest, Artistic Leader of the Budapest Saxophone Quartet, Professor of Saxophone at University of Miskolc and Country Chair of the International Clarinet Association. He has given master-classes across Europe and the USA, among other places at the Conservatorio Nicolini in Piacenza, Italy, Music School of Vrhniko and Summer Saxophone Academy in Podsreda in Slovenia, Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow, Music Academy in Wrocław in Poland, and in numerous venues in the United States: Stony Brook University (NY), University of Central Florida, The Juilliard School of Music (NY), Manhattan School of Music and California State University, etc. The early part of his career was distinguished by a number of prizes and competition awards, among them the first prize in the Budapest Clarinet Competition in 1985, third prize in the International Clarinet Association Competition in Ghent in 1993, first prize in the Chamber Music Competition in Budapest in 1997 and the second prize in the International Saxophone Quartet Competition in Dortmund in 2000. Now he frequently finds himself a juror on such competitions, serving in 2008–9 as President of the Jury at the International Saxophone Competition in Sestri-Levante, Italy, as well as being a jury member of clarinet and saxophone competitions in Serbia, Slovenia and his native Hungary - at the National Clarinet and Saxophone Competition in Győr. In 2011 he was awarded the Artisjus Prize by the Hungarian Composers' Union in Budapest.

He has appeared as a soloist and as a chamber and orchestral musician in Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and the USA. As a soloist, Mr. Szepesi has performed in Bangkok, Thailand, Singapore (Esplanade Concert Hall), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Chicago, USA (Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall), Washington DC., USA (Katzen Arts Center) and 3 times at the world most prestigious concert hall: The Carnegie Hall, New York, USA. Mr. Szepesi is a brand ambassador of D'Addario Woodwinds (USA), RZ Clarinets (Czech), BG France, and an exclusive artist of AGP Agency New York.