

## **The Improvisational Style of George Robert**

Jeff Rzepiela, Presenter

George Robert, Director of the HEMU Jazz Department, Lausanne, Switzerland

Born in 1960 in Geneva, Switzerland, George Robert is internationally recognized as one of the leading alto saxophonists in Jazz today. Having studied at the Berklee College of Music and Manhattan School of music, Robert has had a long career working with such luminaries as Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Kenny Barron, and Tom Harell.

Robert's improvisational style is steeped in the bebop and postbop traditions with the music of Charlie Parker and Phil Woods playing a significant role in his approach to soloing. This presentation will draw from over 25 transcriptions of Robert solos spanning a wide range of compositions ranging from the blues, to jazz standards, to Brazilian standards, to original compositions. The presentation will focus on a number of elements of Robert's improvisational style. The elements will include such topics as approach notes, bebop scales, implied chord substitutions, quotes. In several instances, the presentation will trace the development of elements from components in the styles of predecessors such as Parker and Woods, while showing how those components are integrated into a personal style and vocabulary that is uniquely George Robert's.