

Short Description:

Step into the historic Octagon for an unforgettable evening with the Italian Saxophone Quartet in an intimate setting. In collaboration with Chamber Music Maryland & The Octagon Museum, this concert series invites you to experience live chamber music in one of Washington, DC's most storied landmarks. After the performance, join us for a Meet-the-Artists Cocktail Hour, where you can connect with the musicians and learn more about their craft.

Built in 1799, The Octagon has witnessed pivotal moments in American history, including serving as the White House after the 1814 Burning of Washington. Today, it stands as a museum focused on exploring the cultural and societal impact of architecture, highlighting how architects can shape a more just and equitable society. This unique space offers the perfect setting for artistic expression and cultural connection.

Photos:



CMM Bio:

Chamber Music Maryland (CMM) brings world-class chamber music to communities across Maryland and the greater DMV. Through concerts, master classes, discussions, and outreach programs, CMM fosters community through a shared passion for the performing arts, aiming to inspire the next generation of music makers and ensure that those with limited access can experience exceptional music.

International Saxophone Quartet (ISQ) Bio:

The Italian Saxophone Quartet was founded by saxophone virtuoso Federico Mondelci in 1982, making it one of the longest-lived groups currently active on the world stage.

Determined to perform chamber music for saxophone at the very highest artistic level, the ISQ won a number of important chamber music competitions shortly after their founding, including the unanimous First Prize at the prestigious Premio Ancona. Since then, they have been giving exciting and eclectic performances to adoring crowds from New York to Tokyo, Athens to Bermuda.

Over 40 eminent contemporary composers have dedicated works to the ISQ. The quartet has performed the world and/or European premieres of many eminent composers such as Arvo Pärt, Philip Glass, Luciano Berio, Salvatore Sciarrino, Franco Donatoni, Henri Pousseur, and the American composer Joe Harnell.

The ISQ organized the 10th World Saxophone Congress in Pesaro, Italy (Rossini's birthplace), in the city's historic Rossini Theatre named for the famous composer. Drawing an unprecedented 550 soloists and groups from 22 countries, this festival was awarded the "Kaleidoscope Award" by the commission of the European Community.

Highlights of the ISQ's U.S. activities include two concerts on the venerable Dumbarton Oaks series in Washington, DC and four on the Da Camera Society in Los Angeles. International engagements have included the Bermuda International Festival, the Alicante Festival (Spain), the Oleg Kagan Musikfest in Munich, and the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut.

Other recent tours have brought ISQ to Berlin, Vienna, Dublin, Cairo and Yerevan (Armenia), as well as nearly every major Italian city. They made their second tour of China in 2024, including a performance at the prestigious Shanghai International Arts Festival.



Architects
Foundation



ITALIAN SAXOPHONE

QUARTET



4.05.2025 | 4:00 PM

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For More Info & Tickets: Please Scan the QR code.

Bridging Worlds: Italian Roots, American Rhythms with the Italian Saxophone Quartet

**Presented by
Chamber Music Maryland at the Octagon
Saturday, April 5th, 2025 | 4:00 PM**

Scott Joplin (1868-1917)
The Easy Winners ragtime

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 -1759)
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
Aria (from Orchestral Suite No.3, BWV 1068)

George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Selection from Porgy and Bess (arr. Bill Holcombe)

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) (arr. James Boatman)
West Side Story Suite
I Feel Pretty
Somewhere
Balcony Scene

Ástor Piazzolla (1921 – 1992)
Libertango

Nicola Piovani (b.1946)
Theme from Life is Beautiful (Oscar winner)

Ennio Morricone (1928-2020)
Movie Suite
Miserere and from Gabriel's Oboe from "The Mission"
Ecstasy of Gold from "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Nino Rota (1921 – 1992)
Music from "8 ½"

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The Octagon, once a symbol of power and influence in early Washington, DC, now serves as a museum exploring the impact of architecture on society. In collaboration with Chamber Music Maryland, this new concert series brings live performance into a space rich with history—from its design by the first architect of the U.S. Capitol to its role as the White House after the Burning of Washington. Against this remarkable and storied backdrop, audiences will experience intimate recitals, each followed by a Meet-the-Artist(s) reception.