

Paul Klemperer: Music Workshops & Lectures

Background:

Based in Austin, Texas, saxophonist Paul Klemperer plays an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, American popular music and world music. He is both an experienced performer and teacher. He has a Masters degree in ethnomusicology, a B.A. in sociology, and 30 years of playing experience.

Paul has toured nationally and internationally with Texas legend Marcia Ball, has opened for world class artists such as BB King, The Neville Brothers, Ray Charles, Three Dog Night, and James Brown. He has appeared on national TV and radio shows, in the U.S. and Europe. Paul has won various music awards, including the W.C. Handy Award for best new artist, and the Toronto Exclusive Magazine Award for best international blues act.

Drawing on his experiences in academia and commercial music, Paul presents workshops and lectures on a variety of music-related topics. For musicians, Paul focuses on music theory and technique, as well as artistic and commercial issues. For non-performing music lovers and historians, Paul focuses on cultural and sociological issues in American music. All his workshops and lectures include a Q&A session, with emphasis on current musical and cultural issues.

In 2001, working through the auspices of the Austin-Lima Sister City Program, Paul spent a week in Lima, Peru, giving performances, classes and media interviews. His focus was the influence of traditional Latin American music on the development of North American jazz styles. In 2002, Paul traveled to Turkey, playing with musicians in Istanbul and Bodrum. In 2008, Paul traveled to Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Taipei, meeting and playing with musicians in each city. In 2010, he performed and taught classes in mainland China at Shanghai American School, and Sias International University in Xinzhen.

Currently, Paul Klemperer offers group and individual instruction at the Austin School of Music in woodwinds, music theory, and performance technique.

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Workshops:

Jazz History & Styles

In this workshop Paul describes the historical development of jazz styles, from early folk forms like work songs, blues, and spirituals, to popular styles like ragtime, dixieland, swing, bebop, Latin jazz, and modern trends.

Using recorded and live music examples, Paul shows musicians and non-musicians what to listen for, and how to understand the creative process that makes jazz such a powerful and influential art form.

How To Listen To Jazz

This workshop builds on the jazz history material and goes deeper into the listening experience. Paul clarifies the underlying musical principals in jazz performance, such as riffing, call-and-response, melodic embellishment, and substitute chords, showing participants how to actively listen to the music to get more from it. Participants then listen to a variety of jazz styles shaped by major innovators, to hear how their artistic and commercial choices influenced the historical development of jazz.

Social Issues in the Development of American Popular Music

In this workshop Paul describes the historical development of American popular music styles, looking at the growth of the music industry, and the transformation of traditional musical styles brought to the United States by indigenous and immigrant populations. Musical examples include traditional songs from Africa, Europe, and Asia, and their influences on modern American pop music. Participants will gain a better understanding of how social issues like race, class and gender are filtered and expressed through music.

Practical and Aesthetic Issues for Performing Artists

In this workshop, Paul draws on his experience as a touring musician to describe the artistic and economic pressures experienced by working musicians. Sharing his stories and the stories of the many people he has worked with over 30 years, Paul gives an entertaining and informative behind-the-scenes look at the music business. He then blends his practical experience with his background in the social sciences to explain current trends in the global music market. This is a useful workshop for performing artists working on their careers, as well as anyone who wants a better understanding of the music life.

Concerts & Master Classes

Paul performs in solo, duo and combo formats. His concerts present a range of popular music styles, including jazz, blues, R&B, and world music, with special emphasis on current music trends in Texas.