

Kurtis Adams

Saxophonist & Composer

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Biography

Originally from Nashville, TN, Kurtis Adams found his passion for music at an early age. As a child, he gave pretend concerts in between raiding his parents' music collection. Eventually, the pretend concerts became real when he began playing the saxophone at age nine and deciding to pursue music professionally while in high school. After completing his bachelor's degree, Kurtis moved to the Denver/Boulder area for graduate studies at the University of Colorado. He has been privileged to share the stage with great musicians including Arturo Sandoval, Paquito D'Rivera, Joe Lovano, Conrad Herwig, Bob Mintzer, Tom Harrell, Greg Gisbert, Pat Bianchi, Brad Goode, and Chip Stephens. In 2005, *Downbeat* Magazine named Kurtis Winner for Best Original Composition for his composition "Instable Mate?" and in 2007 he was selected to participate in the Paquito D'Rivera Latin Jazz Workshop performing with the Grammy-winning saxophonist at Carnegie Hall in New York. As an educator, Kurtis has served on the faculties of Gordon College and Boise State University and is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Shepherd University.

Quotes

"...plays tenor and soprano saxophones like a wild man."

– Edward Blanco, *e-jazz news*

"...a volatile post-bop tenor style..."

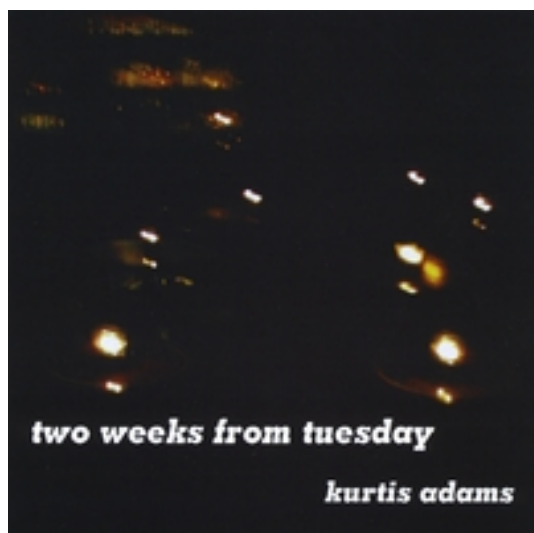
- Brad Goode, liner notes to "Ballad of the West"

Select Discography

Two Weeks From Tuesday – Kurtis Adams Quartet, InstableMusic, 2009

Ballad of the West – Kevin Woods Quartet, SpooM Music, 2007

Pag's Groove – Mike Pagán Big Band – Seabreeze, 2005



Previous Performance Venues

Bliss Café – Arvada, CO
Boettcher Concert Hall – Denver, CO
Café 290 – Atlanta, GA
Carnegie Hall – New York, NY
Churchill Grounds – Atlanta, GA
Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge – Denver, CO
The D-Note – Arvada, CO
El Chapultepec – Denver, CO
Herb's Jazz & Blues – Denver, CO
Highland Inn – Atlanta, GA
Jazz Aspen-Snowmass Festival – Aspen, CO

Ensembles

Rhodes Band:

A mix of experimental and straight-ahead jazz. Predominantly original compositions as heard on *Two Weeks From Tuesday*. Saxophone, Guitar, Fender Rhodes, Drums.

Quartet/Quintet:

Straight-ahead jazz with a mix of original compositions and standards. Saxophone, Piano and/or Guitar, Bass, Drums.

Trio:

In the spirit of the great Sonny Rollins trios. Saxophone, Bass, Drums.

Organ Trio/Quartet:

Hard-swinging in the spirit of Larry Young's *Unity*. Saxophone, Hammond B3 Organ, Drums, (Trumpet)