

The saxophone tradition at Leblanc

With a heritage of instrument making in Japan that traces back to 1893, Yanagisawa is regarded today as maker of the most carefully handcrafted family of artist-level saxophones. Mr. Takanobu Yanagisawa, son of the company's founder, continues to lead his firm in the pursuit of a simple but ambitious goal: to build the finest saxophones in the world.

Leblanc's goal is to produce musical instruments of quality, be they professional or student models. Because they are acoustically, mechanically and musically correct, Vito saxophones permit younger or amateur players the fullest expression of their art. Without instrument-imposed barriers, practice becomes pleasurable and performance follows.

Mel Martin

Jazz saxophonist Mel Martin has played a good share of fusion, Latin and rock with artists like Carlos Santana and Boz Scaggs. With his own group, *Bebop and Beyond*, Mel has recorded several critically lauded CDs dedicated to such artists as pianist Thelonius Monk, trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and saxophonist Benny Carter.

Aside from his roles as arranger, composer and teacher, Mel contributes interviews and record reviews to the *Saxophone Journal*.

Mel liked his Yanagisawa curved soprano so much that he began playing the alto, tenor and baritone

models as well. "To me other brands of saxophones have an exceedingly narrow expressive range. The way the sterling silver Yanagisawa move sound is remarkable. The brass saxes, espe-



Mel Martin

cially with the neck options, play marvelously."

Tony Ellis Aiello

New York studio musician, independent producer and soloist Tony Ellis Aiello plays the entire family of Yanagisawa saxophones. Tony has performed with pop headliners Joe Jackson, Bruce Springsteen, and Mariah Carey and has played engagements at many of the world's top venues—including Carnegie Hall—and before



Tony Ellis Aiello

as many as 60,000 concertgoers at one time. He has performed twice on the *David Letterman Show*, and

he has been called into innumerable studio recording sessions for television and radio commercials for a wide range of national advertisers.

Tony says of his Yanagisawa, "The sound of the Yanagisawa saxo-

phone is without comparison. Its ability to create dark tones in contrast to brassy highs make it a unique instrument. Yanagisawa metal mouthpieces allow the professional as well as the amateur saxophonist to experience the instrument's boundless expressions with absolute control in all ranges."

Plas Johnson

Thanks to his pervasive presence in Los Angeles recording studios, Plas Johnson has anonymously defined the sound of the tenor saxophone to the general public. From his contributions on rhythm-and-blues hits like "Bony Maronie" and "Rockin' Robin" to that slinky sax solo on the unforgettable *Pink Panther*

theme, you've doubtless heard Plas's rich, earthy tenor tone.

Now, as a solo jazz artist, Plas is hitting the road, adding a name and face to the sound, and he's



Plas Johnson

taking his prized T990 tenor with him. "The design and sound of my Yanagisawa tenor are superior to anything else I have played," he says. "When you're playing a ballad, you want the horn to help you as

much as possible, and I find that I don't have to work so hard with the Yanagisawa. It's a beautiful horn."

Warren Wiegratz

Sax man, composer and leader of R&B/jazz group *Streetlife*, Warren Wiegratz earned his fame playing an oldie. To thousands of Milwaukee Bucks NBA basketball fans, and perhaps millions from national television coverage, Warren's renditions of *The Star-Spangled Banner* never fail to inspire.

Honored with numerous awards for saxophone performance for work on radio and television commercials, Warren



Warren Wiegratz

has appeared on the ESPN network, the *Today Show* and on *Good Morning America*. He has also written a commissioned work for saxophone and orchestra.

Warren plays Yanagisawa alto, soprano and tenor saxes. He's particularly fond of the curved soprano. "I love that little guy. The sound is right there in your face," crucial in stage work. He swears by Yanagisawa mouthpieces too. "They're outrageously consistent and project extremely well."

Silver Series saxophones

S-9930

Yanagisawa has crafted from solid sterling silver an artist's soprano saxophone of unprecedented warmth and clarity. The sterling silver body of the S-9930 produces a tone that flows effortlessly and evenly throughout all dynamic ranges and registers. Two interchangeable neckpipes come standard; the straight produces the traditional soprano sound while the curved one a milder, mellower tone.

Specifications

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Key: | Bb |
| Range: | Low Bb to high G |
| Neckpipe: | Sterling silver, two interchangeable—curved and straight |
| Body: | Sterling silver |
| Bell: | Sterling silver, hand-engraved |
| Mechanism: | High G, double-action table keys, contoured independent palm keys, rib-mounted upper and lower stack posts |
| Mouthpiece: | Yanagisawa Y-3707-5 steel ebonite |
| Case: | Deluxe wood-shell |



Shown in detail are the high G key (top) and the high G finger key (below).

YANAGISAWA 



A-9935

The A-9935's silver neckpipe, body and bell impart a refinement and delicacy of tone without sacrificing center and projection, producing one of the most distinctive voices in the saxophone world. Vibrant, lively response and solid "hold" characterize the feel of this instrument. This artist-model saxophone affords a clarity and suppleness that flows faultlessly through all dynamic ranges and registers.

Specifications

Key: Eb
Range: Low Bb to high F#
Neckpipe: Sterling silver
Body: Sterling silver
Bell: Sterling silver, hand-engraved
Mechanism: High F-sharp, distinctive octave key, "sway-free" F-auxiliary and low C-sharp mechanism, contoured independent palm keys, double-action table keys, upper and lower rib-mounted stack posts, double-arm low B and C keys
Mouthpiece: Yanagisawa Y-3704-5 steel ebonite
Case: Deluxe wood-shell

A-9930

This instrument is equally well suited to either classical or jazz playing. The model A-9930's sterling silver neckpipe and body create a remarkably clear sound with no excessive stridency or edginess, while its traditional brass bell adds a slightly warmer character to the tonal shading than the silver-bell models.

Specifications—Identical to A-9935 except:
Bell: Lacquered brass, hand-engraved

A-9933

The gold-plated neckpipe, brass body and sterling silver bell of this model combine to create an urgent, well-defined, memorable tone that can be heard distinctly as a solo voice above jazz ensemble and concert bands. Yet it has the flexibility to allow for tonal shading that makes it a perfect section instrument.

Specifications—Identical to A-9935 except:
Neckpipe: Gold-plated brass
Body: Lacquered brass



T-9930

Yanagisawa has brought the instrument to the peak of its evolution with the Silver Series tenor saxophone. Solid silver gives this instrument incredible response and expressive range, as well as the ability to maintain its astonishingly clear, warm tonal center regardless of volume or pitch. Sure to become the standard in the industry.

Specifications

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Key: | Bb |
| Range: | Low Bb to high F# |
| Neckpipe: | Sterling silver |
| Body: | Sterling silver |
| Bell: | Lacquered brass, hand-engraved |
| Key Material: | Power-forged brass |
| Mechanism: | High F-sharp, distinctive octave key, "sway-free" F-auxiliary and low C-sharp mechanism, contoured independent palm keys, double-action table keys, upper and lower rib-mounted stack posts, double-arm low B and C keys |
| Mouthpiece: | Yanagisawa Y-3705-5 steel ebonite |
| Case: | Deluxe wood-shell |

Shown in detail above is a double-action table key, which helps economize movement of the left hand.

B-9930

This remarkable instrument sets the standard for sound and performance for the baritone saxophone. Solid silver bestows this instrument with a refined solo voice along with the ability to provide a solid foundation for any quartet or section. Unique key positioning is comfortable for large or small hands. An innovative exclusive feature is the B-9930's two interchangeable solid-brass endpegs. One peg, a short tip, is used for resting the instrument during breaks in play. The other telescopes from 5 to 7½ inches for use during play.

Specifications

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Key: | Eb |
| Range: | Low Bb to high F# |
| Neckpipe: | Sterling silver |
| Body: | Sterling silver |
| Bell: | Lacquered brass, hand-engraved |
| Mechanism: | High F-sharp, distinctive octave key, "sway-free" F-auxiliary and low C-sharp mechanism, contoured independent palm keys, double-action table keys, upper and lower rib-mounted stack posts, double-arm low B and C keys |
| Mouthpiece: | Yanagisawa Y-3706-5 steel ebonite |
| Case: | Deluxe wood-shell |

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Feature comparisons silver Series

| | Silver Soprano | | Silver Alto | | | Silver Tenor | Silver Baritone |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Model | Yanagisawa S-9930 | Yanagisawa A-9935 | Yanagisawa A-9933 | Yanagisawa A-9930 | Yanagisawa T-9930 | Yanagisawa B-9930 |
| | Key | Bb | Eb | Eb | Eb | Bb | Eb |
| | Range | Low Bb to High G | Low Bb to High F# | Low A to High F# |
| Neck material | Solid sterling silver | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● |
| | Gold-plated brass | | | ● | | | |
| Body material | Solid sterling silver | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● |
| | Lacquered brass | | | ● | | | |
| Bell material | Solid sterling silver | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| | Lacquered brass | | | | ● | ● | ● |
| | Hand-engraved bell | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Bell bow to body strap | Removable | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Key material | Lacquered brass | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Key guard felts | Adjustable | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Special key mechanisms | Double-action table keys | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | High F# key | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | High G key | ● | | | | | |
| Key adjusting screws | Upper A, B, C | ● | | | | | |
| | G#, Aux Bb | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Key cup arms | Double arm (Low Bb,A) | | | | | | ● |
| | Double arm (Low C,B) | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | Sway-free mechanism | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Finger buttons | Genuine pearl | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Right hand thumb hook | Adjustable | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Post mounting | Ribbed and flanged | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Rods | Stainless steel | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Pivot screws | Tapered with head | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Flat springs | Beraloy copper | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Round springs | Blued steel | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Pads | Kid skin leather with metal resonator | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Finish | Clear epoxy lacquer | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Mouthpiece | Steel Ebonite | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Case | Wood-shell | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

