“Akropolis is great at balancing expressive lead playing with clear, richly-textured, well-rehearsed group dynamics.”
—Matthew Andrews, Oregon ArtsWatch

“This group of five super talented musicians takes listeners on an amazing, interactive musical adventure. The Reed Quintet is innovative, youthful, and full of enthusiasm. Given the young, energetic musicians, the interactive quality of the concert, and the quintet’s amazing musical ability, this was one of the best concerts I’ve ever attended.”
—Pamela Steinik, Maryland Theatre Guide

“All of the music . . . is remarkable for the sheer joy that it elicits from the exceptional ARQ musicians . . . Blend, balance, unanimity of pitch and phrasing: all are perfect. The quintet plays with imagination, infallible musicality, and huge vitality.”—Ronald E. Grames, Fanfare Magazine

“Pure gold, shot through with tenderness and grace.”
—Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle

“Their ensemble was tight and their sound alluring . . .”
—James McQuillen, The Oregonian

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Akropolis Reed Quintet

Hailed for their “imagination, infallible musicality, and huge vitality” (Fanfare Magazine), the Akropolis Reed Quintet takes listeners on extraordinary musical adventures. Founded in 2009 at the University of Michigan, the Akropolis has won seven national chamber music prizes since 2011, including the 2014 Fischoff Gold Medal and the 2015 Fischoff Educator Award. The Akropolis is an alumnus of APAP’s prestigious Young Performer’s Career Advancement Program and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (Art Works), the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, CultureSource, Quicken Loans, and Chamber Music America, as well as operating support from the Aaron Copland for Music and the Amphion Foundation.

The Akropolis Reed Quintet’s impressive list of recent and upcoming appearances include stops at Caramoor, Chamber Music Northwest, the Chautauqua Institution, the Artist Series of Sarasota, Chamber Music Abu Dhabi, and Chamber Music Columbus. The Quintet has been awarded a juried showcase at APAP (YPCA), Chamber Music America twice, the Performing Arts Exchange, the Western Arts Alliance, and the Mid-Atlantic Performing Arts Market. With three studio albums, including its March 2017 release of The Space Between Us, called “pure gold” by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Akropolis has recorded 17 original reed quintet works.

Prolific collaborators, the Akropolis’s 2018 “Together We Sound” Detroit festival features an improvisatory new work with YAK and a concert with acclaimed soprano Shara Nova. The Akropolis premiered the first work for reed quintet and string quartet by David Schiff with the Dover Quartet in 2015, and has performed with such esteemed artists as the Miró Quartet and renowned clarinetist David Shifrin. In 2015 the Akropolis gave an interactive, fully choreographed performance of “Four-Letter-Word” (Robbie McCarthy) with BodyVox Dance in Portland, Oregon, and has even performed with HarperCollins published author and scientist Vic Strecher. In April 2017 the Akropolis’s residency in Abu Dhabi featured a performance of Marc Mellits’s “Splinter” with original Arabic poetry performed by Khalifa University students, written around Mellits’s music.

The Akropolis Reed Quintet has commissioned more than 30 works from composers in 7 countries and was selected to adjudicate and premiere the 2018 Barlow Prize funded by the Barlow Endowment, the first time the prize will be given for a reed quintet work. The Akropolis produces a YouTube Web Premiere Series with more than 40,000 views, showcasing new works, arrangements, and composer interviews for a live Internet audience. In 2012 the Quintet created Akropolis Collection and has now sold over 140 original and arranged sheet music works to more than 30 new and established reed quintets.

Originating at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the Akropolis Reed Quintet remains its founding members: Tim Gocklin (oboe), Kari Landry (clarinet), Matt Landry (saxophone), Andrew Koeppe (bass clarinet), and Ryan Reynolds (bassoon).
2019-2020 PROGRAMS

 Création

 ROB DEEMER: Gallimaufry
 GERSHWIN (arr. Raaf Hekkema): An American in Paris
 Intermission
 JEFF SCOTT: [Akropolis commission forthcoming in 2019]
 MILHAUD (Samuel Suggs): La Création du Monde

 “Création” is a program of musical works from the last one hundred years that assembles various influences and ideas into imaginative new creations, accentuating the complexity and versatility at the heart of the reed quintet. Each half of the concert pairs a contemporary work with an early 20th century composition, one originally for reed quintet, the other creatively arranged to fit the reed quintet’s unique blend of colors and personalities.

 These American Stories

 IVES (arr. Ryan Reynolds): Variations on America
 NICO MUHL: Look for Me
 GERSHWIN (arr. Hekkema): An American in Paris
 LOGAN RUTLEDGE: Point Blank
 Intermission
 JOHN STEINMETZ: Sorrow and Celebration for reed quintet and audience
 ELLINGTON (arr. Hekkema): The Neo-Hip-Hot Cool Kiddies

 “These American Stories” is a narrative program of influential music from the last century of American history. Each work tells its story from a different perspective, at an unique moment of realization or imagination. As America has come of age over the past hundred years, so too has its music, and through it all maintained a uniquely American vocabulary.

 Under the Influence

 MARC MELLITS: Splinter
 NICO MUHL: Look for Me
 PIAZZOLLA (arr. Christopher Rueda): Libertango
 Intermission
 DAVID BIEDENBENDER: Refraction
 GERSHWIN (arr. Hekkema): An American in Paris

 In “Under the Influence,” the Akropolis presents classical music bearing a wide array of influences, from rock and electronic music to jazz, tango, chant, and folk songs. Each work absorbs the characteristics of a different genre, style, or era, and then creates fresh, relevant music, reflecting upon the original and looking forward. Akropolis also explores their own influences as a reed quintet as they build their ensemble’s repertoire and re-visit their personal and collective inspirations by which they have forged their genre-bending identity.
ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS: BEYOND THE CONCERT HALL

The Akropolis Reed Quintet is a nonprofit with substantial individual and foundational support for its educational and community programs which provide greater arts access to audiences beyond the concert stage.

Acclaimed K-12 Outreach

Winner of the 2015 Fischoff Educator Award, the Akropolis reached more than 6,000 K-12 students during its 2017-2018 season alone. Deeply passionate and experienced, the Quintet delivers fast-paced and informative workshops, including its “The Best Story” presentation for elementary schools, featuring a musical reenactment of the Eileen Spinelli children’s book. At the middle and high school level, the Akropolis gives full band workshops, master classes, interactive performances, and Q & As.

“I am in awe of your genius in this educational arena and excited for all the young lives that you will impact and change because you are first and foremost extraordinary artists who are bringing that excellence and meticulous preparation and execution to the educational arena.”

—Kathy Soroka, Allegheny RiverStone Center for Arts Education

AkropolisWORKS (University)

The Akropolis has designed and taught music business management courses at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, and delivered workshops on marketing, strategic planning, audience engagement, competition success, and more at dozens of universities around the country. The Quintet gives inspiring master classes, reads new works by student composers, and has even collaborated in performance with students during its visits.

Visit akropolisquintet.com/akropolisworks to view sample workshop templates, lecture topics, webinars, and more.

Community Engagement

The Akropolis custom-designs satellite performances so that community members outside the concert hall can engage the arts. During its Corporate to Corner Tour in 2017, the Akropolis presented office space concerts in Detroit high rises and pop-up concerts throughout Detroit’s downtown as part of a community residency funded by Chamber Music America and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Quintet has performed at two homeless shelters in Portland, Oregon, hosts a house concert and barbecue each year in Ann Arbor, MI, held its 3rd CD release concert at a local distillery, and has performed at numerous non-traditional venues. The Akropolis Reed Quintet is committed to diversifying classical music’s audience, and can do this in your community.