



PJ PERRY

A disciple of swing and improvisation...

AWARDS

- Presiding Citizenship Official
2018
- Order of Canada
Inducted by His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada
2016
- Honorary Doctor of Laws | University of Alberta
2007
- Lifetime Achievement Award | City of Edmonton
2005
- Best Alto Sax National Jazz Award
2003, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994, 1993
- Certificate and recognition of receipt of 2003 National Jazz Award
Presented by Edmonton Mayor Bill Smith
Edmonton, AB
2003
- Performed with Rob McConnell Tentet | *Tentet*
JUNO Award for Best Traditional Jazz Album – Instrumental
2001
- Honourary Diploma in Music | Grant McEwan Community College
1996
- City of Edmonton Achievement Award
In recognition of Significant Contribution in the area of Culture
1994
- JUNO Award | *My Ideal*
Best Jazz Recording of the Year
With Mulgrew Miller, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Victor Lewis, drums
1992
- JUNO Award | *Jazz Canada Montreux 1978*
Best Jazz Album
With Tommy Banks; Big Miller
1979

CLUBS

Plays regularly at jazz clubs across Canada

Edmonton, AB

- Blue Chair
PJ Perry Quintet
With Bob Tildesley, trumpet; Chris Andrew, keyboards; Paul Johnson, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- Yardbird Suite
PJ Perry Quintet
2024
- Yardbird Suite
Hutchinson Andrew Trio Album Release
The Senator: A Tribute to Tommy Banks
Featuring Al Muirhead, trumpet; PJ Perry, saxophone; Mallory Chipman, vocals
2023
- Yardbird Suite
PJ Perry Quintet
With Bob Tildesley, trumpet; Chris Andrew, keyboards; Paul Johnson, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2022
- Rigoletto's Café
With Chris Andrew, keyboards; Paul Johnston, bass; Dave Laing, drums; Bob Tildesley, trumpet
2021, 2022
- Yardbird Suite
Sandro Dominelli Trio Plus 1
With Sandro Dominelli, drums; Corey Christiansen, guitar; Jeff Jenkins, Hammond organ
2019
- Yardbird Suite
PJ Perry Quartet
With Tony Genge, organ; Jim Head, guitar, Sandro Dominelli, drums
2018
- Yardbird Suite
With Jon Mayer Quartet
2017
- U of A Faculty Club
PJ Perry Trio
2017
- Yardbird Suite 60th Anniversary
PJ Perry & Strings play Charlie Parker with Strings
2017
- Yardbird Suite
With George Blondheim
2009
- Yardbird Suite
With Tommy Banks [Tribute to Count Basie]
Recorded by CBC
2009

- Embers Steak House
With Tommy Banks Big Band
From 1968

Toronto

- Toronto Jazz Bistro
2025

York, ON

- The Black Bear
2025

Vancouver, BC | Frankie's Bar and Grill

- CD Release with Joani Taylor
2018
- PJ Perry Quintet
Featuring Kevin Elashuk, trumpet
2018
- PJ Perry Quartet
2017
2016

Vancouver, BC | Frankie's Jazz Club

- PJ Perry Quartet
Tilden Webb, piano; Steve Wallace, bass; Joe Poole, drums
2025
- PJ Perry Quintet
Featuring Brad Turner, trumpet; Tony Genge, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2023

Montreal, PQ | Upstairs Jazz Club

- With Kevin Dean
2008

Toronto, ON | Toronto Jazz Bistro

- With Reg Schwager, Guitar; Neil Swainson, Bass; Terry Clarke, Drums
2025

Toronto, ON | Rex Hotel

- With Kevin Dean
2008

Ottawa, ON | National Arts Centre

- With Kevin Dean
2008

Manhattan, NY | Village Vanguard

- With Red Rodney Quintet
1980s

Toronto, ON | Bourbon Street

- First call
1970s

Vancouver, BC | Cave Supper Club

- Played on "A" circuit under the leadership of Chris Gage; later, Fraser McPherson
1966-67

Toronto, ON

- With Rob McConnell Band [Suite for Jazz Combo and String Orchestra]
Recorded on CBC as a Canadian first
1959

Vancouver, BC | Queen Elizabeth Theatre

- With Dizzy Gillespie
195

FEATURED SOLOIST

Toronto, ON

- The Black Bear Club
With Neil Swainson
2025
- Toronto Jazz Festival
With Kodi Hutchinson Quintet
2024
- PJ Perry Trio | Salty Dog in the Beaches
With Reg Shwager and Neil Swainson
2018
- PJ Perry Trio | Old Mill Tavern
2017
- With Greg Pillo Quartet | Salty Dog Tavern
2017

Bamfield, BC

- Music by the Sea
2024
2017

Fort Langley, BC

- Jazz & Arts Festival
With Kodi Hutchinson Quintet
2024

Powell River, BC

- Townsite Jazz Festival
With Brad Turner, Phil Dwyer, Steve Wallace
2024

Edmonton, AB

- PJ Perry
With Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
PJ Perry Plays Charlie Parker with Strings
Allan Gilliland, conductor
With Tom Van Seters, piano; Jim Head, guitar; Dave Laing, drums; Paul Johnston, bass
2022

West Vancouver, BC

- Nutcracker Suite
With Bill Mays Septet
2018

Maple Ridge, BC

- Nutcracker Suite
With Bill Mays Septet
2018

Coquitlam, BC

- Nutcracker Suite
With Bill Mays Septet
2018

Hamilton, ON

- Clinic
2018

Waterloo, ON

- Jazz Room
Clinic and performance of PJ Perry Quartet
With Bernie Senenski, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Morgan Childs, drums
2018

Crofton, BC

- Crofton Pub
PJ Perry Quartet
2018

Parksville, BC

- Phil Dwyer Jazz Camp
Concert and Workshop
2018

Port Alberni, BC

- PJ Perry Quartet
2018

Jasper, AB

- Dark Skies Festival | Symphony Under the Stars
PJ Perry plays Charlie Parker with Strings
With Tommy Banks, piano; members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
2017

Edmonton, AB

- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
World Premiere of *Dreaming of the Masters IV*
Original composition for saxophone and orchestra by Allan Gilliland
2018
- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
World Premiere of *Dreaming of the Masters IV for Piano and Saxophone*

Original composition for saxophone and orchestra by Allan Gilliland
2018

- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
The music of the film *Taxi Driver*
2017
- Edmonton Jazz Festival | Yardbird Suite
With Al Muirhead Quintet
2017
- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
Masters Series: Metropolis
2017
- CASA Carnival | Poor Boys Luncheon Benefit for construction of CASA Centre
With Tommy Banks, piano
2017
- Ottewell United Church Jazz Series
PJ Perry Quartet
2017
- City Hall
PJ Perry Big (Little) Band
2017
- With Pro Coro Canada | Winspear Centre
2009
- Alberta Jazz Educators Conference
With Steve Kirby Quartet
2009
- Edmonton Symphony | Winspear Centre
2008
- With Carol Welsman
2007
- Alberta Centennial Celebration | Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
2005

Calgary, AB

- Mount Royal College
Charlie Parker with Strings
2018

Jasper, AB

- Dark Skies Festival | Symphony Under the Stars
PJ Perry plays Charlie Parker with Strings
With Chris Andrew, piano; members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
2017

Saskatoon, SK

- Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra
With Dean McNeill Big Band
2017

Pender Island, BC

- The McConchie House Party Concert
Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass
2017

Victoria, BC

- Victoria International Marina
2024
- Hermann's Jazz Club
Union Club
PJ Perry Quintet
Featuring Brad Turner, trumpet; Tony Genge, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2023
- Hermann's Jazz Club
PJ Perry Quintet
Featuring Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass; Hans Verhoeven, drums
2018
- Hermann's Jazz Club
Brian Dickenson, piano; Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass; Hans Verhoeven, drums
2017
- Crofton Pub
Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass; Hans Verhoeven, drums
2017
Nanaimo, BC
- Simonholt Restaurant
PJ Perry Quintet
Featuring Brad Turner, trumpet; Tony Genge, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2023
- Lighthouse Pub
PJ Perry Quartet
Featuring Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass; Hans Verhoeven, drums
2018
- Simon Holt Restaurant
Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass; Hans Verhoeven, drums
2017

Vancouver, BC

- Frankie's Jazz Club
With Tilden Webb, piano; Steve Wallace, bass; Joe Poole, drums
2025
With Hutchinson Andrew Trio
2025
- Private Event
With Bill Mays Duo
2018
- Frankie's Jazz Bar and Restaurant
Oliver Gannon, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass
2017

Banff, AB | Banff Centre

- With Al Muihead Quintet
2017

New Delhi, India

- New Delhi India Jazz Festival
PJ Perry Trio
2014

New York City, NY | Broadway's Marquis Theatre

- Featured Soloist
Twyla Tharpe's *Come Fly Away*
Highlighting songs of Frank Sinatra
2010 [eight-month run]

Toronto, ON

- Humber College
Clinic
2018
- With Kirk McDonald Big Band | Humber College
2008
- Toronto Jazz Festival
2007
- National Jazz Awards
2007

Calgary, AB

- Calgary Jazz Festival
2008

London, England | Canada House

- In Concert
Representing Canada
2007

Winnipeg, MN

- Winnipeg Jazz Big Band
2007

Qualicum Beach, BC

- Phil Dwyer's Qualicum Jazz Festival
2007

Banff Centre | Banff, AB

- Guest performer/clinician
2007
- With Prime Time Big Band
Recorded at Banff Centre
2006

RECORDINGS

This Quiet Room

- PJ Perry with Bill Mays
Cellar Live Recordings
2019

Smile

- Rob Hewes
Guest artist
2017

Ben Sures

- Guest artist
2017

PJ Perry Quartet and John Mayer Quartet

- Recorded live at Yardbird Suite | Edmonton, AB
Steve Wallace, bass; Quincy Davis, drums
2017

Sax Zenith

- Recorded live at Yardbird Suite | Edmonton, AB
With saxophonists Remi Bolduc, Phil Dwyer, Kelly Jefferson, Kirk McDonald; Paul Johnston, bass; Dave Laing, drums
2017

Common Ground

- With Kirk MacDonald Big Band
Played lead alto sax
2015

Old Friends

- With Tommy Banks, piano
2013

Ubiquitous

- With Kevin Dean, trumpet; Mark Ensenman, piano; Neil Swainson, acoustic bass; Andre White, drums
One track [*Atavan*] composed by PJ Perry
2011

Nota Bene

- With Mark Ensenman, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; John Sumner, drums
Three tracks [*Arnie; Dr. Gu; Arokis*] composed by PJ Perry
2010

Tribute to Count Basie

- With Tommy Banks
Recorded live at Yardbird Suite | Edmonton, AB
2009

Joined at the Hip

- With Campbell Ryga
One track [*Royal Tease*] composed by PJ Perry
Vancouver, BC | Cellar Jazz Club
2008

Prime Time Big Band

- Featured soloist
Banff Centre
2006

Trio

- With Reg Schwager, guitar; Neil Swainson, bass
Four tracks [*Seba Summer; Red; McFunk; PJ's Blues*] composed by PJ Perry
2005

Time Flies

- With Bobby Shew, trumpet & Flugelhorn; Ross Taggart, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Andrew LaChance, bass; Joe LaBarbera, drums; Dave Robbins, drums
Nominated for JUNO Award
Received favourable reviews from *Downbeat* and *Jazz Times*
Vancouver, BC
2005

Come Sunday | Songs of Spirituality

- With Doug Riley, B3 organ and piano
One track [*A Waltz*] composed by PJ Perry
2004

PJ Perry and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

- With Mark Eisenmann, piano; Neil Swainson & John Taylor, bass; Arnie Chycoski, lead trumpet; Bob Tildesley, solo trumpet; George Ursan, drums; Ravi Pooliah, Latin jazz percussion
Nominated for JUNO Award
This work has been performed with most of the symphonies in Canada as well as in Monterrey, Mexico. The CD has become a best seller for a jazz CD in Canada.
1999

Sax Summit

- With Phil Dwyer, Music Director, tenor/soprano sax; Seamus Blake, tenor sax; Mike Murley, tenor/soprano sax; Yannick Rieu, tenor sax; Perry White, baritone sax; Campbell Ryga, alto sax; Mark Eisenman, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Terry Clarke, drums
2002

PJ Perry Quintet

- With Bob Tildesley, trumpet; Chris Andrew, piano/synthesizer; Miles Hill, bass; Claude Ranger, drums
1993

Worth Waiting For

- With Kenny Barron, piano; Chuck Deardorf, bass; Victor Lewis, drums
Released in the USA by The Jazz, a subsidiary of Concord Records.
1991

My Ideal

- JUNO Award for Best Jazz Recording of the Year
With Mulgrew Miller, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Victor Lewis, drums
Two tracks [*Kira Samba; Doodle*] composed by PJ Perry
1989

Jazz Canada Montreux 1978

- JUNO Award for Best Jazz Album
With Tommy Banks; Big Miller
1979
Sessions
- First jazz vinyl recording
Edmonton, AB
1978
Vancouver, BC and Edmonton, AB
- First sax, clarinet, flute, piccolo for all TV specials
1968

Toronto, ON

- With Rob McConnell Band
Recorded on CBC as a Canadian first
1959

MUSICAL THEATRE

Edmonton, AB | Citadel Theatre

Regular in pit orchestra

2007 – present

- Matilda
2019
- Beautiful
2018
- Crazy for You
2017
- Oliver
2007

Saskatoon, SK

- Chicago
2009

Toronto, ON | Canon Theatre

- Rat Pack
2004

TOURS

Joy of Sax

- Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Kitchener-Waterloo, Halifax
2014

Broadway musical Chicago

- Tour of United States
2008

Broadway musical 42nd Street

- China and South Korea [8-month tour]
2007-2008

Chico Arnaz Band

- Tour of England, France, Germany
1963-1966

CLINICS

JAZZ IMPROV WITH PJ PERRY

Parksville, BC

- Phil Dwyer Jazz Camp
Concert and Workshop
2018

Toronto, ON

- Humber College
Clinic
2018

Hamilton, ON

- Mohawk College
2018

Waterloo, ON

- Jazz Room
With Bernie Senenski, piano; Neil Swainson, bass; Morgan Childs, drums
2018

New York City, NY | Broadway's Marquis Theatre

- Alberta Jazz Educators Conference
With Steve Kirby Quartet
2009

Banff Centre | Banff, AB

- Guest performer/clinician
2007

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS BY PEERS

“For the last several decades PJ Perry has set the standard for saxophone playing in Canada. He has provided guidance to generations of young musicians, inspiration to his peers, and thrilled audiences with his heartfelt and brilliant improvisations. I’m proud to be able to call PJ a friend and colleague.” —**Phil Dwyer**

“Although I tend to think of alto-ist PJ Perry as Canada’s Sonny Stitt, a superior bop-oriented improviser, on *Old Friends* he is heard in a more intimate and melodic setting than usual. Teamed on duets with pianist Tommy Banks, Perry (who is heard on alto and tenor) plays extremely well on 16 high-quality songs. The repertoire, which includes such gems as Charlie Haden’s *First Song*, *Joy Spring*, Lee Morgan’s *Ceora*, *Delilah* and *My Ideal*, is filled with rich melodies for Perry to caress. He builds his solos off of the themes, adds to the music’s richness, and sounds relaxed throughout even when the tempo is faster. Tommy Banks’ thoughtful solos and tasteful accompaniment fit perfectly with PJ Perry, which should not be too much of a surprise since they first played together 50 years ago! On their first-ever duet album, PJ Perry and Tommy Banks create a classic.” —**Scott Yanow, *Jazz Scene***

“Sax man blows audience away!” —**Sheila Keenan, *The Daily News***

“Simple eloquence – master of his craft.” —**Stan Dunn, *KJAZ San Francisco***

“The man sparkled, serenaded, scorched and soothed the audience with his playing that is set on the most beautiful of tones.” — **Peter North, *Vue Weekly***

“Top gun on the alto sax ... melodies delivered with satisfying conviction.”
—**Geoff Chapman, *Toronto Star***

“Musicians as great as PJ aren’t a dime a dozen.” —**Richard Chabesiew, *Victoria Jazz Review***

“Impassioned, intelligent and well posed, one wonders, does it get any better?”
—**Roger Levesque, *Edmonton Journal***

"PJ Perry overjoys concertgoers with Joy of Sax . PJ came and knocked us back in our seats ... the whole orchestra jumping like a 727 leaping off the deck at full throttle ... fluid improvisation ... as eloquent as Shakespeare." –**Steven Pederson, *Halifax Chronicle Herald***

"Simple eloquence – master of his craft." –**Stan Dunn, *KJAZ San Francisco***

"PJ Perry is considered to be Canada's finest saxophonist. His intimate musical knowledge of the great 20th century composers such as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen and Duke Ellington, delights pops audiences all over the world." –**Steven Pederson, *Halifax Chronicle Herald***

"Pops concert perfect antidote to winter blahs ... saxophonist PJ Perry isn't just a good player, he's up there with the best. Perry has a veteran's ear for phrase and elegance. Most highly recommended." –**Colleen Johnston**

"...absolutely brilliant as a saxophone player." –**Bobby Hales, *Jazz Street Vancouver***

"Joy of Sax a lot more than jazz ... Perry fashioned a wisely-judged program ... Perry is an extremely versatile player." –**D.T. Baker, special to *The Edmonton Journal***

"PJ Perry with the KSO. Sax man blows audience away ... PJ Perry blew hot, he blew cool, and he blew the audience away. There was hooting, hollering and even whistling to cheer this fabulous performance. The entire concert was cool indeed." –**Sheila Keenan, *The Daily News***

"On his fourth album as leader, acclaimed saxophonist PJ Perry becomes a "crossover" artist of sorts, but instead of taking the low road, he takes the high one, collaborating with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and a few special guests to fashion a scintillating performance that combines the most enchanting aspects of jazz and classical music.

"Perry, who has logged time with Dizzy Gillespie, Michel Legrand, Red Rodney and Rob McConnell's Boss Brass and Tentet, is as melodically impressive as he is technically polished, while the Edmonton Symphony, ably guided by orchestral arranger Rick Wilkins, reminds one of the world-renowned Netherlands Metropole Orchestra whose "chamber jazz" collaborations with prominent soloists are widely acclaimed.

"After opening with an earnest homage to the legendary guitarist Django, Perry salutes the incomparable Bird with a Charlie Parker medley – *The Song is You, April In Paris, They Can't Take That Away From Me* and *Lover*. Two other medleys, extolling ballads and the bossa nova, complement a series of winners including Earle Hagen's soulful *Harlem Nocturne*, trumpeter Bob Tildesley's fugue-like *They kept Bach's Head Alive* and the peppery Gershwin flag-waver, *Strike Up the Band*.

"Perry and the Edmonton Symphony form a wonderful alliance, and those who appreciate lovely melodies that swing shouldn't overlook this album."

–**CD Reviews – *The Jazz Report: Vol.13, No. 3. Jack Bowers, For the Record***