

**KOH Mr.Saxman
Mr.Sekpol Unsamran**



Ask any music lover in Thailand to name the most popular Thai saxophonist, the answer one would get is definitely Koh Mister Saxman. But the name Koh - the saxophonist from Thailand spreads beyond his home country. For more than two decades, he has toured and performed around the world regularly from his neighboring Asian countries to Japan, Australia to Russia, Europe, Scandinavia and America.

Known endearingly as Koh, but officially Sekpol Unsamran, Koh has been performing professionally since the age of 16. From a humble beginning playing gigs at pubs, hotels and clubs, his career began taking off and was noted by the music industry when he formed the band Boy Thai. Featuring a combination of western and Thai instruments to create music that sounds so unique and colorful yet very contemporary, Boy Thai stepped out in a big way and their fame took the group members to various countries to perform at musical and cultural events.

Koh's virtuosity shone more brightly after the defunct of Thai Boy as he has collaborated on recordings of countless leading artists of all musical genres. In 2002, Koh's first solo outing simply entitled 'Mr. Saxman' as he is fondly called was launched to an overwhelming response from both music fans and critics. The CD features the sensational single "Pawana" (My Prayer), a jazz-tinged pop tune which became a classic instantly. A string of CDs has followed ever since and the fan base continues to grow even stronger. With more than 7 solo albums to his credits and several collaborations in which he is a featured artist, hundreds of concerts from a jazz trio setting to a full jazz group to performing with symphony orchestras, Koh has earned a high place in Thailand's music industry. For the past ten years, Koh has been travelling extensively to perform on international stages around the world as well as recording with creditable musicians in Japan, Europe and USA.

Although Koh has always been tagged with the sounds of jazz music, his versatility is recognized by producers and arrangers of other styles of music. His name can be found on songs recorded by artists and composers of pop, R&B, rock, hip hop, classical and esoteric categories. As Koh has put it, "I love music - any kind of music. Music keeps us alive.", every note coming out of his axe or from his mouth when he sings comes from his heart and his sensitive perception of music. His influences and sources of inspiration range from great jazz masters to jazz fusion inventors, smooth jazz stylists, his contemporaries to young and current players.

But there are other sides of Koh Mr. Saxman. He is also a successful entrepreneur running his own label *Chillin'Groove Record* (CGR) after having spearheaded Mellow Tone Records label under the roof of a major label. CGR has also released, in addition to Koh's solo CDs, recordings by other artists seeking creative freedom which most commercial labels do not spare. He has established Sax Society - a sax school welcoming the young and the old - literally everybody who wishes to embrace sax and music in their lives. Sax Society is now in its 10 years and has produced many dozens of young sax players who play semi-professionally and professionally.

Sax Society, as its name indicates, forms a relaxing society of music lovers who come around to hang out or browse for saxophones and accessories at the school's shop day in and day out. This friendly gathering has resulted in the creation of Jazz Sushi - a pub and restaurant that serves culinary delights spiced up with music from musical bands and musicians of all levels; talented amateurs, professionals and even world-class performers.

What Koh treasures no less than performing is mentoring. Throughout his career, he has been making contribution to music education by offering lectures, workshops and master classes to students at schools, colleges and universities around Thailand. "Music belongs to everyone. And those who want to play music or improve their skills should have the opportunity and support to do so" said Koh when asked about why he makes unwavering efforts to teach and talk with students and young players around the country.



"It's true the world is getting smaller. But communication gap is still there. I hope my music would help bridge that gap and melt away all our differences." And that's the word from Koh Mr. Saxman.

Discography

Solo Album

Mr.Saxman : 2002

Sax Appeal : 2004

The OtherSide of Koh Mr.Saxman : 2005

Sax is all around : 2006

The Sound of Saxman : 2008

Happy Moment : 2009

The Visitor : 2011

Concert Koh Mr.Saxman Live In Bangkok : 2013

Collaboration

- Vibration / Jonathan Fritzen (Diamonds) 2011
- Friendship / Jonathan Fritzen (Magical) 2013
- Dragon's gate / Jun Abe (Walk Around) 2013
- Could it be / Sabrina (I Love Acoustics) 2013

International concerts

- Bangkok Music Festival
- Hua-Hin Jazz Festival
- Bangkok International Jazz Festival
- Satoru Shionoya Jazz Group Concert (Bangkok)
- Asian Art Festival (Singapore)
- Penang Jazz Festival (Malaysia)
- Jazz Festival in Sarawak (Malaysia)

- Sanya Jazz concert (China)
- Thai Festival (Japan)
- Unit Asia Band SouthEast Asia Tour 2008, (Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Japan)
- Thai @Trafalgar Square 2008, (UK)
- Unit Asia Band Japan Tour 2009, (Japan)
- Rhythm Meeting Band World Tour 2009, (India, Switzerland)
- J-Asian pop concert (Yokohama, Japan)
- Taste of Thailand 2009, (UK)
- 15th World Saxophone Congress 2009, (Thailand)
- Koh Mr.Saxman Live in Bangkok 2010, (Thailand)
- Amersfoort International Jazz festival 2011,2013 (Netherlands)
- Asean Music in Gwangju 2011, (Korea)
- Bravo ASEAN 2011, (Korea)
- Koh Mr.Saxman The Visitor Concert 2012 (Thailand)
- "Unit Asia" Southeast Asia Tour 2012 (Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines)
- "Gitasiravadha...A tout jamais" au musee du quai Branly, Paris
- Miri International Jazz Festival "Borneo Jazz Festival 2012" Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia
- Taste of Thailand, Taste of London 2012 (UK)
- Copenhagen Jazz Festival 2012 (Denmark)
- Masaki Ueda Live at Billboard, Japan
- jazz concert on the occasion of the 85th birthday anniversary of his majesty king Bhumibol Adulyadej and national day of Thailand, in Royal Castle ,Warsaw 2012 (Poland)
- Unit Asia "European Tour 2013" (Madrid & Barcelona ,Spain / Rome ,Italy / Cologne ,Germany)
- Unit Asia "Asean Tour 2013" (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam)
- Thailand Week in Russia 2013 (Moscow)
- Thailand Fan Club 2013 (Russia)
- Thai Food Festival 2013 (France)
- Jef Neve Invites Concert in Belgium / Leuven Jazz Festival 2014
- Amersfoort Jazz Festival 2014 (Netherlands)
- Huahin Asia Jazz Festival 2014 (Thailand)
- The Sound of Siam European Tour 2014 (Warsaw, Bratislava, Prague)

Awards that Koh Mr.Saxman received previously.

1990 : Coke Music Award : The Best Musician

1991 : Nescafe' Music Festival : The Best Band

1992 : Yamaha Thailand Band Explosion : The Best Band

1993 : The Best Saxophone : Thai Music Association

2002 : The Best Instrumental Record of the year "Rush hour" album Mr.Saxman :
Season Award

Koh Mr.Saxman had been invited to give a lecture and tell his music experience to students of many reputed universities such as Mahidol University, Kasetsart University and Rangsit University.

Koh is a founder of Saxophone Community in Thailand as well as 2 branched of saxophone school called "Sax Society" (www.saxsociety.com) and is also endorser of P.Mauriat Saxophones (www.pmauriatmusic.com)

"Yes! Music will keep us alive..."

Koh Mr.Saxman

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