

# Gianni Virone

## *curriculum vitae*

Gianni Virone was born in Chieri (Turin, Italy) in 1980. He is a professional saxophone player, arranger and composer since 2002. Besides playing his compositions with his own trio and quartet, he works with many small groups, big bands/orchestras and recording studios as arranger, section player and soloist. His professional activities also include teaching saxophone, improvisation techniques, jazz harmony, composition/arranging.

He graduated from “Conservatorio G. Verdi” in 2007/2008 with Prof. Furio Di Castri (*summa cum laude*). He attended several masterclasses in Italy and abroad with Dave Liebman, Airtó Moreira, Jerry Bergonzi, Enrico Rava, Gianluigi Trovesi, Steve Coleman, Ayn Inserto and many others. His jazz studies started at Centro Jazz Torino in 1997.

During the “Siena Jazz Summer Workshop 2002”, he was awarded with a grant for the “Nuoro Jazz Workshop 2003”. The next year in Nuoro, he was selected to play at the “Berchidda Jazz Festival 2004”. In 2003, he also won the “Talens” competition for soloists organized by the “Istituto Musicale di Rivoli”. In this way, he could attend the Summer Workshop of the New School University of New York in Bassano Del Grappa where he was selected for scholarship.

He won the first edition of the national competition “Nuovi Talenti del Jazz Italiano” in 2004. The same year he was a finalist of the “Premio Nazionale Massimo Urbani”. In 2007, his big band arrangement of the Kenny Wheeler’s *Ma Bel* obtained the second place at the international competition Barga Jazz. The song was played by the Barga Jazz Orchestra directed by Bruno Tommaso, featuring Kenny Wheeler as soloist.

He collaborated with various big bands (Jam Studio Orchestra, GianPaolo Petrini Big Band, Torino Jazz Orchestra, Far Fly Music Community, Hasta jazz Orchestra e Filarmonica Jazz Band di Pianezza) both as an arranger and section player (soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxes, flute, bass clarinet).

In 2005, he was a member of the LabDance Orchestra directed by Furio Di Castri and Gianluca Petrella in the framework of the project “Under Construction”, featuring Roberto Gatto, Antonello Salis, Eric Vloeimans, Maria Pia De Vito, Paolo Fresu, Danilo Rea, John De Leo, Roberto Rossi, Federico Senesi and Nguyễn Lê. Since 2008, he joined the new Furio Di Castri’s project “Welcome – tribute to John Coltrane”.

He also played with John Riley, Emanuele Cisi, Flavio Boltro, Fabrizio Bosso, Gianni Basso, Rudy Migliardi, Alberto Mandarini, Luca Begonia, Massimo Manzi, Alessandro Di Puccio, Piero Odorici, GianPaolo Casati, Stefano “Cocco” Cantini, Pietro Tonolo, Fabio Morgera, Salvatore Bonafede, Michael Rosen, Aldo Zunino, Stefano Bagnoli, Andrea Pozza and many others.

He is endorser of the Italian saxophone factory Rampone & Cazzani since 2004.