

# Geoff Warren

Jazz flautist, composer, educator



# Background

Geoff Warren is an English flautist. He studied flute with Derek Honner of the Royal Academy of Music and took his degree in Music at London University. He is a performing jazz musician, composer and currently Europe's most active jazz flute clinician.

He started his jazz career as flautist/saxophonist in the ranks of Graham Collier with whom he played at major music festivals in Europe and Asia, working alongside famous musicians on the British jazz scene such as John Surman, Kenny Wheeler, Harry Beckett, John Marshall and Roy Babbington. In 2012 Geoff conducted the BBC Big Band in their tribute to Graham Collier at the London Jazz Festival, and went on to conduct and oversee the recording of Collier's last works for the posthumous double CD *Luminosity*, released in 2014.

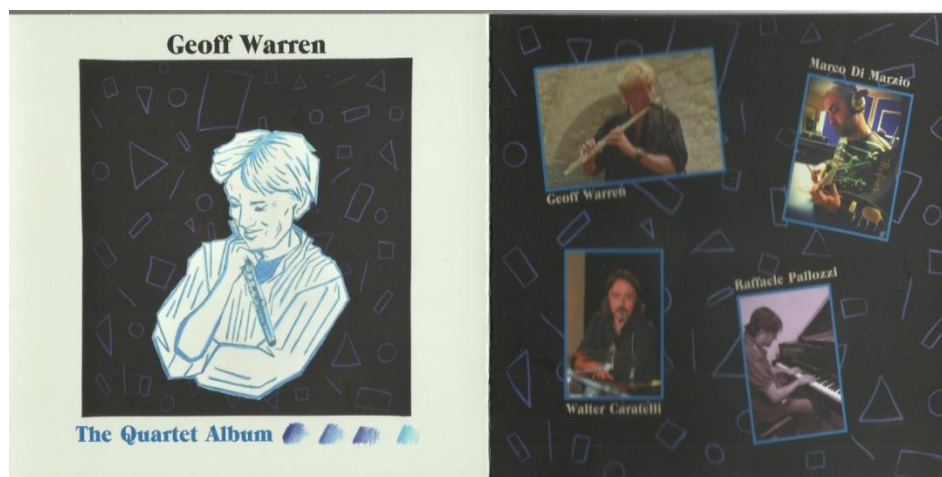
As well as fronting his own bands, he has been particularly active in ethno-jazz crossover, touring and recording with jazz tablas player Badal Roy (historic sideman of Miles Davis), Tartar guitar-tapping virtuoso Enver Izmailov and many others. One Italian critic (Giuseppe De Biasi) has written; *"Geoff is able to throw himself into the most disparate of musical situations without ever losing his personal artistic integrity."*

Active throughout his career in the promotion and teaching of jazz flute, his work has been the subject of articles in flute magazines *Pan* in Great Britain, and *Falaut* in Italy, who described him as *"one of the most representative jazz flautists of the 21st century"*. From 1985 to 1993 he was a professor on the jazz faculty at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Geoff has presented Masterclasses in jazz flute at conservatoires and art institutions all over Europe, and every year he holds a Jazz Flute Summer School in Abruzzo, Italy, which has attracted participants from all over the continent.

In 2010 he recorded *"Flute Fables"* a CD for solo flute, produced by Peter Wiessmueller for the German label, TUTU Records.

In 2011 Geoff Warren became a Yamaha Artist.

2014 saw the release of *"The Quartet Album"* with his Italian quartet on FMR records, UK.



# The Performer

Geoff Warren's principal performance situations are quartet and duo. His preferred quartet is the Italian group with which he recorded "The Quartet Album", but in recent years he has fronted groups formed of national musicians in UK and Hungary when he has been touring these countries. In duo he likes to work with piano taking this "classical" sonority into the jazz World. He has developed a stable working partnership with Scottish pianist Richard Michael. (Both Richard and Geoff are Yamaha artists.)

## Geoff Warren Quartet

Geoff Warren	Flute and alto flute
Raffaele Pallozzi	Piano
Marco Di Marzio	Bass
Walter Caratelli	Drums

An Italian group from the Abruzzo region, the quartet offers a repertoire consisting mainly of compositions by the leader. The group has released its first CD, entitled "The Quartet Album" , on the UK label FMR. Warren's compositions contain allusions to British folk music and a strong influence from jazz-rock of the "Canterbury Scene" of the 'seventies. Together with these emotions the group also expresses itself via the propulsive, open swing of modern jazz. Jazz critic and author Duncan Heining has written: *"..you have in The Quartet Album an unusually attractive, satisfying blend of virtuoso playing and excellent writing."*

### Videos

<https://youtu.be/M-XX1-NjhDc>

[https://youtu.be/Jw\\_JeVRi59w](https://youtu.be/Jw_JeVRi59w)

[https://youtu.be/tNw3c\\_4RAk0](https://youtu.be/tNw3c_4RAk0)



## *Geoff Warren and Richard Michael*

### Jazz for Flute and Piano

Flute and piano is a line-up commonly seen at chamber music recitals, yet these two British jazz musicians show how this combination can swing, groove, croon and yell.

Geoff and Richard first met on a Jazz workshop tour for Yamaha. They are both dedicated and energetic jazz educators. In performance they are able to go from chamber jazz to vibrant swing, exploiting this unusual (for jazz) sonority to the full.

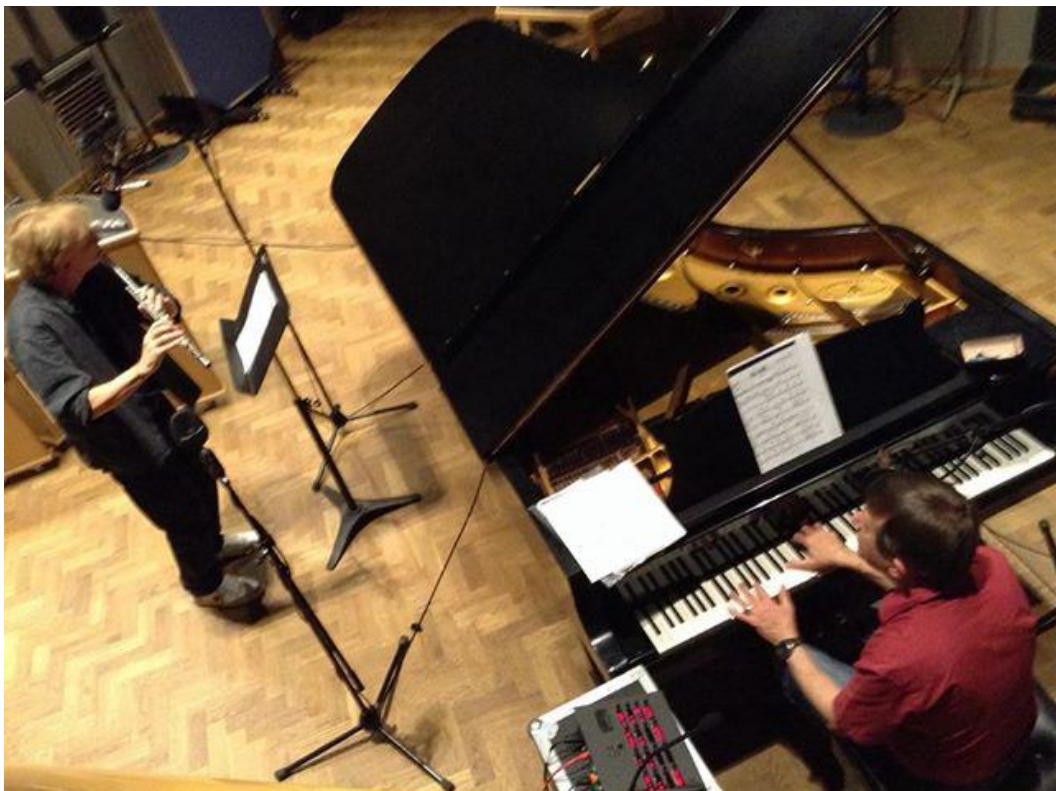
Richard is one of Scotland's most versatile musicians, who has influenced a generation of teachers and students with his innovative methods of teaching improvisation through thirty nine years work with Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra (FYJO) and a career as composer, performer and workshop leader. He was made a BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to music, and is currently Honorary Professor of Jazz Piano at St Andrews University.

The duo offers a repertoire of standards and their own compositions.

Here are two tracks from a BBC Radio Scotland recording session.

<https://soundcloud.com/geoff-warren/baby-bossa>

<https://soundcloud.com/geoff-warren/mr-g-c>





## Solo Flute

This show was born out of the solo flute album “Flute Fables”, a project suggested by German producer Peter Wiessmueller for his label TUTU Records. With some occasional use of electronics, this is not a loop station gig, but a solo flute set based on improvisation, story-telling and taking the flute to its limits.

Here is what Thomas Fitterling wrote in Rondonmagazin:



Geoff Warren

Flute Fables

Tutu CD 88823

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*“Jazzmen who start out from the flute are rare; even Eric Dolphy, Roland Kirk and Yusef Lateef were first heard on the saxophone. English flautist Geoff Warren is an exception..... after a series of quartet, trio and duo recordings he has opted for a solo project and has created a remarkably varied record..*

*Warren uses the tone-colours of concert, alto and bass flutes, and he knows about speaking to you with music. He is a gifted storyteller and makes judicious use of the structuring codes of formal language of both the European tradition and jazz. Despite all his virtuosity, ostensible swaggering is completely alien to him. Melodic richness comes hand in hand with sophisticated dance rhythms. Occasionally, sound designs, loops, or supplemental overdubs are used. These might depart from the inherent logic of the strict solo flute character of this album, and if they do, the music simply delights, uplifting both mind and heart.”*

*Thomas Fitterling, Rondonmagazin Germany. 2012.*



**Audio tracks on Soundcloud:**

<https://soundcloud.com/geoff-warren/triplectic-cadenza-i-1>

<https://soundcloud.com/geoff-warren/hangover-nobodys-blues>

# Jazz Flute Clinician



Geoff has made his name specialising in a user-friendly approach to jazz flute, inspiring by interaction and example, keeping a balance between the personal attention expected from a masterclass and the creative group activity of the jazz workshop.

## ***Track record –Some Jazz Flute Events***

Annual Jazz Flute Summer School –Italy since 2000

Masterclasses- Conservatorio, Pescara, Italy. 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013

Yamaha Jazz Experience: Workshops for school teachers in Bolton and Carlisle UK. 2011

Workshops in teaching improvisation for wind instruments, Asker (Oslo). Norway. 2011.

Masterclass in Jazz Flute – Norwegian Flute Society Convention 2012,

Masterclass in Jazz Flute, Piacenza Jazz Festival, Italy, 2013.

Masterclasses in Jazz Flute – British Flute Society, Scotland 2013, 2015

Masterclass in Jazz Flute at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow 2013.

Jazz Workshop- University of Strathclyde, Scotland 2013

Jazz Flute Workshop – British Flute Society National Convention 2014

Masterclass in Jazz Flute for Glasgow University Flute Society, 2015.

Jazz Workshop for woodwind instruments for Oxford County Music Service, 2015.

Masterclass in Jazz Flute at Bela Bartok Conservatory, Budapest, Hungary 2015.



### ***What they say: (comments from some participants)***

*“Geoff had a seemingly impossible task, to get a room full of fluters (of various ability levels) to get onboard with jazz and start to break out of their comfort zone in a most dramatic way. Well, he achieved that and so much more. Geoff gradually revealed his extraordinary knowledge, both in jazz and classical. He quickly showed a very gentle touch with regard to teaching, -something that is rather reassuring to a nervous group of soon-to-be jazzers.”*

*“His technique was dazzling, his seemingly endless array of solutions for filling an empty bar or phrase jaw dropping. He’s not just a flute player, but a top-notch musician who happens to play the flute.”*

*“Geoff will throw you on out on the slippery slope of improvising on the spot, and then lead you back onto “safe ground”, playing along with you, suggesting embellishments and alternative phrasing. He will provide you with positive feedback on your improvisation based on your skill level, making you reflect on potential improvement and suggesting ideas for further development.”*

*“What really made it for me was the repertoire, which was ultra-cool jazz with gorgeous backing tracks. To stand up there alongside Geoff and start to dabble with (at long last) some actual knowledge rather than guesswork was one of the best moments of my life! Making it even better, there was that ultra-cool backing to play against with the massed flutes joining for ensemble sections, all with juicy harmonies, toe-tapping jazzy rhythms, lilting 5/4’s, etc. Brilliant How can life get better than those precious moments duetting with the genius?”*



# The Yamaha Connection

Geoff Warren has been a Yamaha Artist since 2011. This has involved endorsing Yamaha flutes and travelling as a flute demonstrator, appearing for Yamaha at flute conventions and trade fairs, and giving his personal feedback to the Yamaha production team.

On many occasions Geoff has presented workshops, masterclasses and concerts in partnership with Yamaha and its worldwide network.



[http://europe.yamaha.com/en/artists/brass\\_woodwinds/geoff\\_warren/](http://europe.yamaha.com/en/artists/brass_woodwinds/geoff_warren/)



# The Composer

As well as creating the repertoire of his jazz quartet Geoff Warren is an active composer of chamber music for woodwind instruments, and in particular for flute ensembles. His “Six Kentish Trios” earned an honorary mention from the American National Flute Association in 2014.

He is a prolific writer of jazz education pieces for variable ensembles and has written studies and methods for flute and saxophone.



[www.geoffwarren.com](http://www.geoffwarren.com)