

*Workshop*

# I, THE COMPOSER



EIRADÍS



# I, THE COMPOSER



*“I, the composer” is a workshop that provides students with the opportunity to take on the roll of a composer working together with professional musicians.*

*Working with the quartet, the children will be given the tools to write, draw or in other artistic ways, illustrate their own music, and hear it performed by the ensemble afterwards! It’s these melodies and creative ways of thinking that Ensemble Eiradís want to capture and work on together with the children.*

*With this project we want to expand the children's creative horizons and show them that everybody can create, and everyone can be a composer.*



# WORKSHOP



The children will be given free rein to experiment with their creative skills and thereby develop their artistic skills as well as their interest in music. The workshop promotes the children's visual and auditory skills, while making them focus on details. Their ideas and compositions will be taken seriously, so they will feel trust, and support in their creative work. It is of highest importance that they feel that their work is valued, and that there are no restrictions holding them back - all sounds are music, and how they put those sounds together, is fully up to them. If others can appreciate their/your work or not, that is irrelevant in this workshop. With this mindset, we work together with the children, so that their music will be exactly as they imagined. When the children are done writing their pieces, we will perform them collectively as a small concert suite.

In this way the children will hear the melodies created by them and their classmates, and at the same time they will hear their friends' feelings and ideas expressed through music and see how differently we all think and express ourselves.

[Workshop Film](#)

# CONTENT



## *Presentation*

The quartet will make an introduction and give a small concert, where different genres of classical saxophone music will be displayed - everything from famous compositions from the Norwegian composer, Grieg, to newly written contemporary music, as well as pieces performed with acrobatics. In this way we will capture the children's interest and show them how you can express emotions through music. During the concert, some alternative playing techniques and effects will be shown to demonstrate that every sound, even silence, can be music. In the last part of the presentation the children will be asked to draw, while the quartet is playing a piece of music. The assignment is to draw how they are feeling, or thinking, while they are listening to the music.

## *Workshop part 1*

We will have an open dialogue with the children, about what they have drawn and what feelings and thoughts they were given by the music they heard. We will also speak about notation and give them the tools to be able to notate music. We will provide them with examples of classical notation, and also show them how they can notate music with more well-known symbols, such as smiley faces. We will present our

instruments, and their functions in an ensemble, as well as demonstrate how newer techniques sound on the instruments. The first part of the workshop will end with a flashcard game about the different notation signs. Partly to stimulate the children, but also because the usage of varied learning methods will increase the chance that new information is recalled.

### *Workshop part 2*

The children are split up into smaller groups and start to compose. They are given free rein to create their own music and/or soundscapes. We are present through the whole process and will, if necessary, help them as well as provide answers to their questions.

### *Workshop part 3*

The last part of the workshop is a concert containing the music made by the children, performed by the saxophone quartet. All the parts will be copied and handed out to the children so that they can follow the notation while the piece of music is being performed. The concert will also be recorded and sent to the class, so that the children have the possibility of listening to their music again, as well as showing it to their friends and families.

# PRACTICALITIES



## *Target group*

The workshop is best suited for children between the ages of 6 and 11 years old. Maximum number of participants is 28 students per workshop.

## *Timeframe*

The workshop is 4x45minutes with breaks in between every session. The total duration is around 4 hours.

## *Workshop space*

First two parts of the workshop takes place in the children's normal classroom. During the group work it is necessary with an extra room to ensure peace and quietness.

## *Necessities*

In order to complete the workshop we need paper and crayons/marker pens for the children. Furthermore we would need acces to a copy machine.

Notice: For this workshop the children need to understand and be able to communicate in basic English. It could also work with a translator.

## *Preparations*

It is beneficial if the children have been told about different instruments and listened to how they sound. Furthermore it would be great if they could look at and discuss how sheet music looks, and how it is possible to read music from this kind of writing prior to the workshop.

## *Review*

“The students thought it was a fun day where they got to learn a lot. They wanted you (the quartet) to stay, and wished for this (the workshop) to continue every day.

The day after the workshop the students wrote poems where they wrote, among other things:

“I felt proud.”

“Fun to watch saxophones.”

“It was annoying.”

“The best thing about the day was writing notes and making music.”

“Funny when they played music.”

We educators thought that you were good at meeting and handling the students. It was a good arrangement of the activities with the mixture of listening to music, playing/learning more about notes, recesses and concerts. It seemed like you had complete control and had a lot of humor. We were impressed by your interpretations of the students' compositions.”

*Maria Tuolja Renström*

*Teacher in 3rd grade at Nilaskolen, Malå - Sweden*



# ABOUT



**Ensemble Eiradís**, based in Aarhus, Denmark, is an imaginative, exciting and hard working quartet that consists of four dedicated classical saxophonists from the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. As individuals, they have wide experience across many musical genres. They use this experience in international competitions, concerts and courses where they have received countless prizes and exceptional feedback – both as soloists and as chamber musicians. During its short time as an ensemble, the quartet has received commissioned pieces from both Swedish and Danish composers and has played many concerts both in Denmark, Sweden and on the Faroe Islands. In addition to bringing music to concert audiences, Eiradís has specialized in workshops and concerts for children. In the workshops children learn about musical freedom and the possibilities of expressing themselves by writing music. This has resulted in over one-hundred new works for saxophone quartet.





# CONTACT



In case of any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,  
Kristina Thede Johansen // Ensemble Eiradís  
+45 50 66 13 99  
[eiradis@eiradis.com](mailto:eiradis@eiradis.com)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[SoundCloud](#)

