

## James Danderfer: clarinetist/composer

“One of the best kept secrets in Canada, ... a truly remarkable musician.”  
(- Bill King, Jazz Preview, Jazz FM91.1)

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, jazz clarinetist/composer James Danderfer has been traveling, studying and performing around the world since the age of 16. His travels first began when he was accepted into the prestigious Interlochen World Center For The Arts high school (USA) to study with renowned clarinetist Richard Hawkins. James attended the University of North Texas and later received a bachelor's degree in jazz performance from Western Michigan University where he was a featured soloist and composer in both concerts and recordings. (WMU Jazz Orchestra, “Blue Miles” [1997], “Sabine's Dance [1999])

For the next five years James gained experience as both a band leader and sideman performing in Canadian jazz clubs, festivals and CBC radio programs, on cruise ships internationally, and in New York City. After his celebrated debut recording “Run With It” (Cellar Live, 2005), James' curiosity for traveling and learning about other cultures lead him to Shanghai, China where he worked as a freelance jazz musician and music instructor at international schools. After his first year of living in China, James proposed a project to the Canada Council For The Arts to compose a musical imagery of modern-day Shanghai, a juggernaut of development in the forefront of a rapidly changing nation. This year long project resulted in a concert tour of China and a subsequent CD recording in Canada entitled “Accelerated Development” (Cellar Live, 2008).

James has enjoyed the opportunity to perform and/or record with such musical talents as Kenny Werner, Walt Weiskopf, Don Thompson, Brad Turner, Oliver Gannon, Chris Gestrin, Bruno Hubert and Jodi Proznick. James' latest recording “Accelerated Development” has been receiving international radio play and goes a long way towards cementing James' reputation as one of the most creative and pictorial composers on the jazz scene as well as one of the world's premiere jazz clarinetists.

