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OCTOBER 2010

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Borgani Pearl Gold Tenor Sax *Jazz Standard*

Borgani Saxophones—the Macerata, Italy-based company known for its custom-built and beautifully finished professional instruments—now offers a tenor saxophone in Pearl Gold. Of all Borgani's product lines, the Pearl Gold series is best suited for jazz players looking for a sound that can be modulated over a wide tonal range and is highly capable of creating varying shades of vintage and contemporary colors.

Play-testing the Pearl Gold tenor, I was impressed with the horn's immediate response at low and high volumes alike. I was able to put a lot of air through this tenor for a big, bright, brawny tone; dialing things down a bit, I could easily blow breezy, dark subtones that evoked memories of old Selmers and Conns. Trying different reeds and mouthpieces on the Pearl Gold, I discovered that the instrument covers a wide tonal spectrum, depending on your setup and embouchure adjustments. It's an extremely flexible horn with enormous power, yet it's surprisingly

easy to control. Palm-key notes really sing out up high, and the lowest notes fill the room with vibrant resonance.

As with other Borgani saxophones, the Pearl Gold series features a hand-hammered brass body, neck and bell. The toneholes are drawn manually from the body of the instrument, not soldered on. Overall, the Pearl Gold is a solid-feeling instrument with a certain amount of heaviness to it that most tenor players will find appealing.

The intonation of the instrument was remarkable. As I played through a series of octaves and overtones, I was blown away by how accurate my pitch was from low to high. The keywork was also excellent: Everything laid well under my fingers, especially the smartly designed front F key. Lastly, the Pearl Gold series has a classy, vintage look that suits its extreme playability and

high standard of quality.

I would definitely recommend the Borgani Pearl Gold tenor to serious players who want a new professional horn. As with any big-ticket purchase, try before you buy, and explore the various customizations (as well as the other excellent saxophone lines) Borgani offers.

—Ed Enright

