

# Bobby Dukoff Endowed Jazz Scholarship Announced

A LEGEND IN THE HISTORY of the jazz and popular saxophone, Robert "Bobby" Dukoff created saxophone mouthpieces that helped define the bright, distinctive sound of a generation of jazz recording artists such as David Sanborn, Kenny G, Michael Brecker, and scores of others including Ed Calle, M.M. '84, M.M. '01. His company Bobby Dukoff Mouthpieces, Inc., under the leadership of protégé and CEO Nicolas Hernandez, maintains a prominent place in the industry.

Born in 1918, Dukoff bought his first saxophone at the age of 14, and played with many big bands in the swing era, including Benny Goodman. He was a recording artist in his own right, featured on several best-selling RCA recordings. In the 1960s he was also responsible for one of the first professional recording studios in Miami, where some rock and roll hits were produced.

Last year the Frost School of Music learned from Hernandez and estate attorneys Ralph Nardi, J.D. '99, and Mitchell Hippzman that Dukoff, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 93, and his second wife Jeanne, who died in 2014, had established a charitable remainder trust to create a new Bobby Dukoff Endowed Scholarship at the University of Miami Frost School of Music to provide financial aid to deserving jazz students.

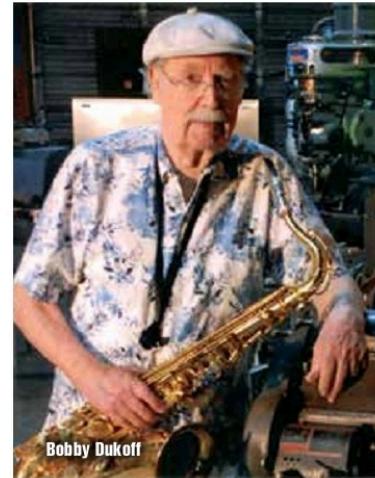
Hernandez announced the new scholarship on the Maurice Gusman Concert Hall stage prior to a 2015 Festival Miami concert. The value of the endowment fund is approximately \$2 million. Hernandez invited jazz saxophone faculty member and recording artist Gary Keller, M.M. '80, a friend and admirer of Bobby, to share his reminiscences as part of the announcement.

"Bobby was a visionary," recalled Keller, who is also the founder of the Miami Saxophone Quartet. "He keenly understood the needs of the saxophonist in the burgeoning rock and roll era, and he designed a mouthpiece that literally reshaped the world of the saxophone."

Keller also explained his interest in saxophone gear, the importance of mouthpieces, and how he sought out Dukoff for advice early in his career.

"Bobby spent a lot of time with me at his shop explaining the craft, history, and manufacturing process. He shared with me his knowledge about saxophone history, what he learned from his predecessors and contemporaries, and many great stories from his performing career in the swing era. Bobby was a fine player as well as a relentless experimenter and perfectionist. He was always interested in my opinion of his work and graciously helped me in my own search for the perfect mouthpiece. It turned out to be one of his older models from the '40s that he was kind enough to offer to me from his collection, along with a very special vintage tenor saxophone that was once his, which I still play. He was incredibly outgoing and always willing to share his time and knowledge. He especially enjoyed coming to hear the sax players at the U. He had a great respect for what we did here."

For information about how to establish a trust to benefit the Frost School of Music, please contact Cynthia Beamish Esq. in UM's Office of Estate and Gift Planning at [cbeamish@miami.edu](mailto:cbeamish@miami.edu).



BOBBY DUKOFF MOUTHPIECES, INC.



## March On: The Carmine Parente Band of the Hour Challenge

Carmine Parente, B.S. '89, challenged Band of the Hour supporters and fans via UM's crowdsourcing website, [canefunder.com](http://canefunder.com), to continue offering scholarships to its most deserving members by pledging to match every gift made to the M. Mann-C. Parente Scholarship Endowment between January and May 2016 on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$50,000. Fans met the challenge three months early in February! Way to go, 'Canes!