

## Ferio Saxophone Quartet

Huw Wiggin (soprano), Ellie McMurray (alto), David Zucchi (tenor) and  
Katie Samways (baritone)

April 2025

### Quotes

“Natural singers, phrasing supplely and expressively ... only the glummost of historically informed pedants could object to hearing Purcell, Byrd or Handel played by a group as good as this.”

**Gramophone, Richard Bratby** (Revive)

“Playing is of the highest level throughout, as is the stunning recorded sound.”

**Classical Music Magazine** (Flux)

“What’s immediately striking about this disc is the tonal subtlety and expressiveness of the Ferios’ playing”

**Gramophone, Richard Bratby** (Flux)

“... the Ferios certainly have skill on their side, and every emotional hue you could want – smoky, honeyed, shrieking or sad.”

**BBC Music Magazine, Geoff Brown** (Flux)

“Their beautiful ensemble playing of Piazzolla, Bach and Bizet, to name a few, was a treat to listen to.”

**Henley Standard**

“A bold and fascinating recording ... the Corvus Consort joins forces with the Ferio Saxophone Quartet to reimagine compositions old and new to dazzling effect.”

**Tortoise Media, Matthew d’Ancona** (Revoiced)

“intriguing and effective arrangements ... the way the saxophones and voices interweave and blend is strikingly effective”

**BBC Radio 3 Record Review, Andrew McGregor** (Revoiced)

“Playing and music alike sport an irresistible exuberance.”

**Financial Times** (Flux)

]“Perhaps we should also use the word – breathtaking – as it is remarkable that such a detailed three-movement work as Bach’s Third Brandenburg Concerto – usually heard on violins, violas, and basso continuo – now radiates its beauty and invention through four saxophones.”

**Quarterly Review, Stuart Millson** (Revive)

“The Ferios infuse everything they do with such a lovely, engaging personality.”

“[Jean-Baptiste Singelée’s ‘Grand Quatuor Concertant’] demonstrates the astonishing quality of this ensemble, whose intonation, articulation and blend are faultless.”

“What a fabulous foursome; bar-raising musicianship and sound.”

**MusicWeb International, Dan Morgan** (Flux)

## Introduction (133 words)

As one of Europe's leading saxophone quartets, the **Ferio Saxophone Quartet** consistently receives a highly enthusiastic reception from audiences and critics alike. Concert engagements have taken the ensemble to the leading festivals and concert halls across the UK, as well as on tour to New Zealand, France and Bermuda, and they can frequently be heard on BBC Radio 3 and other national and international broadcasters. Their four recordings for Chandos Records have all been met with great acclaim in the press and demonstrate the broad range and flexibility of their instruments, repertoire and collaborations. Since forming at the Royal College of Music in 2012, accolades and awards have included The Philharmonia/Martin Musical Ensemble Award, the Royal Over-Seas League's Ensemble Competition prize and selection by both the Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Group.

## Short Biography (291 words)

As one of Europe's leading saxophone quartets, the **Ferio Saxophone Quartet** consistently receives a highly enthusiastic reception from audiences and critics alike.

Their four recordings for Chandos Records have all been met with great acclaim in the press and demonstrate the broad range and flexibility of their instruments, repertoire and collaborations. 'Flux' (2017) traces the saxophone's history in a programme of original works for saxophone quartet, while 'Revive' (2018) is a set of magnificent Baroque transcriptions. 'Evoke' (2021), with pianist Timothy End, features premiere recordings of three brand new arrangements by Iain Farrington for saxophone quartet and piano, and 'Revoiced' (2022) is a collaboration with vocal ensemble Corvus Consort, exploring the magical blend of saxophones and voices.

2025 will see Ferio return to the recording studio with Chandos records to record their fifth album as well as numerous appearances at festivals across the UK.

Accolades and awards have included The Philharmonia/Martin Musical Ensemble Award, the Royal Over-Seas League's Ensemble Competition prize and selection by both the Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Group.

Concert engagements have taken the ensemble to the leading festivals and concert halls across the UK, as well as on tour to New Zealand, France and Bermuda, and they can frequently be heard on BBC Radio 3 and other national and international broadcasters.

Other important strands of Ferio's work include a range of educational activity in schools and conservatoires, and developing the saxophone quartet repertoire through commissions, which have included Laura Bowler, Simon Rowland-Jones and Guillermo Lago.

The Quartet was formed at the Royal College of Music in 2012, and has since developed an extraordinary breadth of repertoire, allowing them to draw from an unusually wide range of musical styles and periods in their highly- engaging concert programmes.

## Full Biography (442 words)

As one of Europe's leading saxophone quartets, the **Ferio Saxophone Quartet** consistently receives a highly enthusiastic reception from audiences and critics alike.

Their four recordings for Chandos Records have all been met with great acclaim in the press and demonstrate the broad range and flexibility of their instruments, repertoire and collaborations. 'Flux' (2017), a programme of original works for saxophone quartet, traces the saxophone's history from the time of its invention to the present day. 'Revive' (2018) is a set of magnificent Baroque transcriptions, and was launched at 'Rhinegold Live', hosted by Classical Music Magazine. 'Evoke' (2021), with pianist Timothy End, features premiere recordings of three brand new arrangements by Iain Farrington for saxophone quartet and piano: his own *Animal Parade*, Shostakovich's *Jazz Suite* and Bizet's *Carmen Suite*. 'Revoiced' (2022), in collaboration with vocal ensemble Corvus Consort, explores the magical blend of saxophones and voices, bringing new colours to music from the Baroque and Renaissance, recasting contemporary choral works into a fresh soundworld, and inspiring the creation of new music.

2025 will see Ferio return to the recording studio with Chandos records, visits to festivals across the UK including Chiltern Arts Festival in May and Hay-on-Wye festival and Beaminster Festival of Music in June as well as a educational residency with Absolute Classics in Scotland.

Accolades and awards have included The Philharmonia/Martin Musical Ensemble Award, the Royal Over-Seas League's Ensemble Competition prize and selection by both the Tunnell Trust and Park Lane Group.

Concert engagements have taken the ensemble to the leading UK concert halls including Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and St John's Smith Square, as well as on tour to New Zealand, France and Bermuda. Festival appearances have included Ryedale, Three Choirs, Newbury, Henley, Chiltern Arts, Stour Music and Festival Septembre Musical de l'Orne in Normandy, and they can frequently be heard on BBC Radio 3 and other national and international broadcasters.

In parallel with their concert performances, Ferio enjoy education work in primary and secondary schools, as well as delivering masterclasses with more advanced students at Conservatoire level, most recently at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Developing the saxophone quartet repertoire is also an important strand of Ferio's work, and they have commissioned pieces by Laura Bowler, Simon Rowland-Jones and Guillermo Lago.

The Quartet was formed at the Royal College of Music in 2012, and has since developed an extraordinary breadth of repertoire, exemplified in the great variety of music they have recorded to date. Their prolific versatility allows them to delight audiences up and down the country by drawing from an unusually wide range of musical styles and periods in their highly-engaging concert programmes.