

Long Version (457 words)

Erik Abbink is a Victoria based saxophonist who enjoys performing chamber music, concertos and orchestral repertoire with a diversity of ensembles and orchestras that flourish in Victoria, including the [Vis-a-Vis Saxophone Quartet](#), [Palm Court Orchestra](#), the [Canadian College of Performing Arts](#), and the [Victoria Symphony](#).

Mr. Abbink started his professional music studies at the [ArtEZ Conservatorium](#) in Enschede (the Netherlands) studying with two of Europe's most prominent saxophonists, namely [Arno Bornkamp](#) and [Johan van der Linden](#). During these studies he was a founding member of the Helikon Saxophone Quartet.

When taking a summer chamber music course with the Helikon Quartet at the famous [Orlando Festival](#) (Kerkrade, The Netherlands) he received masterclasses with Wolfgang Laufer, cellist of the [Fine Arts Quartet](#). It was "Wolfy" who in due course convinced the Quartet to study at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

During his fall residency at the [Banff Centre for the Arts](#) he met Victoria pianist Jacqueline Perriam with whom he started a serious relationship. After living and studying in the Netherlands Jackie and Erik decided to get married and relocate to Canada's West Coast. They have been living here for the last eight years. Jackie and Erik enjoy having a three year old son who loves playing their grand piano and his very own plastic saxophone.

Believe it or not, the fact that Mr. Abbink ended up playing the saxophone was somewhat of a coincidence. After convincing his mother that he "really wanted to take music lessons" he started off playing the recorder, and soon thereafter took up the clarinet (!) at his local wind band. When the band was desperate for more saxophonists Erik was asked to switch, which he did without comment and without ever regretting it since.

Erik is a strong advocate of inspiring audiences by bringing innovative programs that are approachable, but without feeling the need to "dumb things down" :

"I'm convinced that our 21st audiences are far smarter than what generally is accepted. And today's audience wants to be surprised, especially by the unknown. Juxtaposing traditional repertoire with New Music is therefore vital to a unique concert experience. "

For a well balanced program - inclusive of "harder" pieces - to succeed, I find it essential to take time necessary to connect with my audience. By introducing each work and explaining how the music can be understood I engage my audience at multiple levels. That's how I turn a challenging program into a successful one, making the music accessible and enjoyable to audiences ranging from music experts to aficionados and first time visitors alike."

Mr. Abbink is currently finishing up his doctoral degree (DMA) in Saxophone Performance at the University of British Columbia with one of Western Canada's finest saxophonists [Julia Nolan](#).

He enjoys travelling abroad having given concerts in the United States, Europe (United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Turkey) and Asia (Taiwan and Hong Kong).

Erik teaches classical saxophone at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Camosun College in Victoria.

Medium Version (268 words)

Erik Abbink is a Victoria based saxophonist who enjoys performing chamber music, concertos and orchestral repertoire with a diversity of Victoria based ensembles and orchestras, including the [Vis-a-Vis Saxophone Quartet](#), [Palm Court Orchestra](#), and the [Victoria Symphony](#).

He started his professional music studies at the [ArtEZ Conservatorium](#) in the Netherlands, studying with two of Europe's most prominent saxophonists, namely [Arno Bornkamp](#) and [Johan van der Linden](#). During a fall residency at the [Banff Centre for the Arts](#) he met Victoria pianist Jacqueline Perriam with whom he started a serious relationship. After living and studying in the Netherlands Jackie and Erik decided to get married and relocate to Canada's West Coast. They have enjoyed living here for the last eight years, and now have a three year old son who loves playing their grand piano and his very own plastic saxophone.

Erik is a strong advocate of inspiring audiences by bringing a innovative concert experience that connects with his audience:

"I find it essential to introduce each work, explain how the music can be understood so my audience is engaged at multiple levels during my performance. That's how I'm able to turn a challenging program into a successful one."

Mr. Abbink is currently finishing up his doctoral degree (DMA) in Saxophone Performance at the University of British Columbia with one of Western Canada's finest saxophonists [Julia Nolan](#).

He enjoys travelling abroad having given concerts in the United States, Europe (United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Turkey) and Asia (Taiwan and Hong Kong).

Erik teaches classical saxophone at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Camosun College in Victoria.

Short Version (153 words)

Erik Abbink is a Victoria based saxophonist who enjoys performing with ensembles such as the [Vis-a-Vis Saxophone Quartet](#) and [Palm Court Orchestra](#).

Mr. Abbink started his studies in the Netherlands studying with two of Europe's most prominent saxophonists, namely [Arno Bornkamp](#) and [Johan van der Linden](#). During a fall residency at the [Banff](#)

[Centre for the Arts](#) he met Victoria pianist Jacqueline Perriam with whom he soon got married. They relocated to Canada's West Coast eight years ago, and counting.

Erik is a strong advocate of inspiring audiences by bringing innovative programs that can bring a unique audience experience.

He is finishing up his doctoral degree (DMA) in Saxophone Performance at the University of British Columbia with one of Vancouver's finest saxophonist [Julia Nolan](#), and enjoys travelling abroad having given concerts in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Erik teaches classical saxophone at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Camosun College in Victoria.