

DURGA Baritone Mouthpiece Review

by Mike Parlett

The Theo Wanne collection of supreme and cutting edge design mouthpieces have made a recent new addition: THE DURGA BARITONE SAX MOUTHPIECE.

I have been playing the Tenor DURGA since the Anaheim NAMM show in January 2009 when this new piece made me finally give up my trusty M Brecker Guardala and start playing this one exclusively.

I met the Wanne's at the previous year's NAMM show 2008 when they gave me the prototype KALI to try out. I loved it then and started using it on my more refined gigs where I need a fuller and darker sound to that of my MB Guardala. Since then my allegiance to the Wanne's as an endorser has only grown. I have seen the company go from strength to strength with the addition of a whole plethora of pieces to suit just about every style of playing and musical taste.

The new DURGA Baritone is ***unequivocally the best mouthpiece*** I have played on for the instrument. Again, in this case, I was playing on the standard top baritone piece, the Lawton 7* BB, which are now becoming collector's items. After trying many baritone pieces over the years, I was somewhat skeptical to try the DURGA baritone. But, on my first playing, I was once again knocked out by its incredible presence, full rich tone, and ease of blowing in all registers.

I love to play up in the altissimo range on Baritone and this piece makes that and playing in the low registers and sub tones effortless. I was impressed by the craftsmanship and attention to detail in every respect down to the unique ligature similar to that on the Otto Link but with a cool 5 position adjustable setting so you can decide where the clamp your reed on the mouthpiece's table. The mouthpiece's construction is substantial and will stand the test of time and not bend like some Silverite examples available today. It also has warmth that you cannot achieve on the stainless steel products.

The customer service at Theo Wanne is also second to none and they are the most helpful and accommodating people you will ever hope to meet.

All this explains the somewhat higher price tag to that of the competition but the extra expense is well worth it. My first gig out with the new baritone DURGA was with a 60s soul band in LA. I got so many compliments on my sound. The DURGA piece made a huge improvement on my tone and projection and was a real pleasure to play.



In conclusion, I thoroughly recommend this and all the other Theo Wanne mouthpieces. They are a must for any serious sax player today in pursuit of the ultimate in tonal quality. I was playing on the standard classic mouthpieces (at any price-point) on my tenor (Michael Brecker Model Guardala), baritone (Lawton), and alto (Hand Made Freddie Gregory). I now play the DURGA on all three. The DURGA is just that much better than anything else ever made.

Mike Parlett (Recording Artist/Producer/Radio Show host)

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