

Tim Price *Keeping it Real*

The KALI and DURGA Vintified Mouthpieces



For the sake of clarity with Theo's DURGA and KALI mouthpieces via current production Selmer Saxophones, I thought I'd share my experiences and findings with these excellent products.

As a Selmer clinician, I've played my silver Series III Tenor as my main tenor saxophone since I got it. This horn gets played on every kind of gig from straight ahead jazz, big band, funk & rock and roll. The versatility of the horn can be matched perfectly with Theo's DURGA #8 Vintified Tenor Mouthpiece. This combination provides great response, a sensual, lush Plaz Johnson style bottom (or Ben Webster if you're so inclined), and also a very bold and round body of sound, be it sub-tones or altissimo. My findings also stem from having to play many styles of music on the tenor and to keep my personality within the idioms.

The DURGA on the silver Series III seems to me like the perfect choice in a metal mouthpiece. I've also experimented, with excellent results, with the gold bi-metallic model and enjoyed the qualities immensely. To say the least, these mouthpieces, with the large chamber and the beautiful baffle work, are an asset to me on every gig.

That said, on my lacquer Reference 36, I found that the KALI is the perfect partner to bring out the quality that the 36 has been made for. I use a KALI Vintified #8 with excellent results. Also, I can add the gold plated KALI #8 opens the doors even greater on the Reference 36 if you're looking for a different shape in the sound; more of a Dexter Gordon with a funkified side when it's called upon. The vibe on the KALI is like if Dexter wanted to jam with the Grateful Dead, or have a tenor hook up with Jeff Coffin with Dave Matthews this might be his modern day choice! You get my drift? It's that good. I like both, but the Vintified is just too cool and looks amazing too!

I've enjoyed the dimension of sound that the KALI creates and the beautiful time feel I can place into my playing with this mouthpiece. As with anything, these are modern day tools made by Theo Wanne with great knowledge, dedication to the sound of the tenor from all eras, and the highest level of craftsmanship in metal mouthpieces today.

As people say, your mileage may vary. I've done this explanation as a favor to Theo because he's been a friend for a long time, and my respect for him as an artist is great. I hope his helps people playing the Reference 36 and the Series III get closer to where they need to be. These are results I found and have been successful for me on gigs and recordings. The reed strengths, by the way, have been Rico Jazz Select 3M Unfiled. I hope this helps all interested in this sonic aspect.

It's all good when Theo is on the case.

Tim Price

www.timpricejazz.com