



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE • 2026

# Rick Keller

*Creative Visionary — Music · Innovation · Artistry ·  
Technology · Education*

📍 Las Vegas, Nevada    ✉ richard.keller@unlv.edu    🌐 Saxsonic.com

📷 @rickkellersax



NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL  
GRANT RECIPIENT 2025



PUBLISHED AUTHOR  
KENDALL HUNT 2026



ASCAP  
MEMBER



MLC  
MEMBER



AFM  
MEMBER



SOUNDEXCHANGE  
MEMBER

↓ DOWNLOAD RESUME PDF



## Professional Profile

Richard "Rick" Keller is an internationally recognized **saxophonist, composer, producer, educator, and published author** whose career spans four decades and four continents. Born in North Syracuse, New York, he began on accordion at age four before discovering the saxophone in fifth grade — a defining moment that would shape five extraordinary decades of music.

With fluent German and 18 years based in Munich, a celebrated studio career in Los Angeles, and now a position at the forefront of music education in Las Vegas, Keller represents the rare convergence of **world-class performance, innovative composition, sophisticated production, and genuine academic authority**. He is the complete Renaissance music professional.

COMPOSER

ARTIST

PRODUCER

EDUCATOR

AUTHOR

LATEST RELEASE

# HEROES

VEGAS RECORDS VR 1032 · AUGUST 2025



A 70-minute, 14-track suite of original compositions paying tribute to the jazz legends who shaped a lifetime of music — Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, The Brecker Brothers, and more.

COMPOSER

PRODUCER

RECORDING ENGINEER

MIXER

PERFORMER

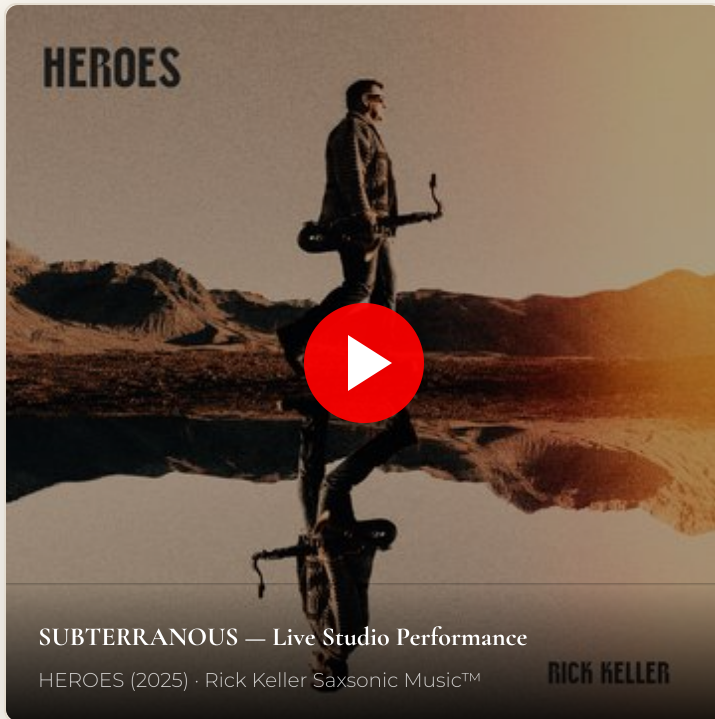
GRAMMY® CONSIDERED

PARIS MOVE A MUST

★★★★★ ROOTS MUSIC REPORT



## Featured Video



NOW PLAYING

## SUBTERRANOUS

FROM HEROES (2025)

Live studio performance featuring the mixed saxophone solo from the HEROES album recording sessions at UNLV Recording Studios, Las Vegas. Inspired by The Brecker Brothers.

Composer & Performer

Rick Keller

Recorded at

UNLV Recording Studios

Album

HEROES · Vegas Records VR 1032

[▶ WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO CHANNEL](#)



## Career Journey



2016 — PRESENT

## Las Vegas — Saxsonic Music & UNLV

Adjunct Professor at UNLV teaching Jazz Composition, Saxophone, Improvisation, and Music Technology. Composer, Producer, Recording Engineer, and Mixer of HEROES (2025) — Grammy® considered. Recording Mixer for DownBeat Award winning UNLV Jazz I Big Band (2025). Author of A Creator's Practical Guide to Music Technology (Kendall Hunt, 2026). Founder of Saxsonic Music™.

UNLV Professor

DownBeat Award Mixer

Published Author

Grammy® Considered

2001 — 2016

## Los Angeles — Studio & Commercial Music

Premier session saxophonist and commercial composer. Performed with Lady Gaga, Frankie Valli, Barry Manilow, Natalie Cole, Christopher Cross, Jon Secada, The Temptations, and Christina Aguilera. Appeared at Radio City Music Hall, Royal Albert Hall, and Capitol Studios. Grammy Award and Latin Grammy broadcasts. Grammy nominated with Chris Walden Big Band (2005). Founded Moodbeat Music production company.

Grammy® Nominated 2005

Royal Albert Hall

Radio City Music Hall

Capitol Studios

1983 — 2001

## Europe — Munich & International Career

Eighteen years based in Munich, Germany — fluent German. Performed across Europe, Asia, and Australia with Billy Cobham, Bill Bruford, Trilok Gurtu, Zakir Hussain, Joe Sample, and Chaka Khan. Venues include North Sea Jazz Festival, Blue Note Tokyo, Ronnie Scott's London, and Expo 98 Lisbon. Taught at New Jazz School Munich and multiple European institutions.

Fluent German

Ronnie Scott's London

Blue Note Tokyo

North Sea Jazz Festival

1979 — 1983

## University of Miami — Foundation

Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Saxophone Performance — Frost School of Music. Graduate studies at New England Conservatory (1985). Master's Degree in Jazz Composition — UNLV (2019).

B.A. Jazz Saxophone Performance

M.A. Jazz Composition



## Notable Performances

### VENUES

- ◆ Royal Albert Hall — London, UK
- ◆ Radio City Music Hall — New York, USA
- ◆ Blue Note — Tokyo, Japan

### BROADCASTS

- ◆ Grammy Award Broadcasts — CBS Television
- ◆ Latin Grammy Broadcasts — Univision Television

◆ Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club — London, UK

---

◆ North Sea Jazz Festival — The Hague, Netherlands

---

◆ Bratislava Jazz Festival — Bratislava, Slovakia



## Critical Reception

---

★★★★★ A MUST / INDISPENSABLE

*"A tone that is instantly recognizable, and a body of compositions that feel genuinely singular, resistant to nostalgia and uninterested in imitation. Heroes remind us that the most compelling artists are those who carry their past not as a weight, but as a source of momentum."*

**THIERRY DE CLEMENSAT, JAZZ JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION — PARIS MOVE, FRANCE**

[READ REVIEW →](#)

*"A boldly expressive instrumental jazz album well worth playing and replaying."*

★★★★★ **ROBERT SILVERSTEIN — ROOTS MUSIC REPORT**

[READ REVIEW →](#)

*"Artfully conceived and impeccably realized — the culmination of Keller's half-century of music making."*

**DAVID AKE — FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

[FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC →](#)

*"A dynamic, emotionally resonant collection that confidently carves out its own space in the present."*

**CHRIS WALDEN — GRAMMY® NOMINATED COMPOSER & CONDUCTOR**

*"Keller doesn't let inspiration degenerate into mimicry — a facility drawn from wide experience."*

**JAZZ JOURNAL UK**

[READ REVIEW →](#)



## Notable Collaborators

---

★ Chris Walden Big Band — Home of My Heart (2005) Grammy® Best Large Jazz Ensemble

POP, R&B & COMMERCIAL

Lady Gaga

Frankie Valli

Barry Manilow

Natalie Cole

Christopher Cross

Jon Secada

The Temptations

The Four Tops

Christina Aguilera

Gloria Trevi

Chaka Khan

JAZZ & FUSION

Billy Cobham

Bill Bruford

Trilok Gurtu

Zakir Hussain

Joe Sample

Charlie Mariano

Claudio Roditi

George Russell

Al Porcino

Johnny Mandel

ORCHESTRAL & BROADCAST

London Symphony Orchestra

BBC Orchestra

Münchner Symphoniker

Grammy Award Broadcasts

Latin Grammy Broadcasts



## Education & Teaching

2016–  
Present

**Adjunct  
Professor —  
UNLV  
Division of  
Jazz &  
Commercial  
Music**

Jazz Composition · Jazz Saxophone · Improvisation · Music Technology · Multimedia  
Recording Mixer — DownBeat Award Winning UNLV Jazz I Big Band (2025)

2026

**Published  
Author —  
Kendall  
Hunt  
Publishing**



*A Creator's Practical Guide to Music Technology* · ISBN: 9798319728371  
25 chapters · Corporate partners: Avid Pro Tools, iZotope, GIMP, PG Music

2019

**Master's**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Degree —**

**Jazz**

**Composition,**

**UNLV**

1979–83

**Bachelor of**

University of Miami, Frost School of Music · New England Conservatory (1985)

**Arts — Jazz**

**Saxophone**

**Performance**



Europe  
1983–01

**International**

New Jazz School Munich · Remscheid Jazz Workshop · Salzgitter Jazz+Rock Workshop · Bavarian Jazz Youth Orchestra · Feierwerk Workshop · Media Academy Germany

**Teaching —**

**Europe**



## Awards & Recognition



**Grammy® Nominated — Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album**

Lady Gaga · Harlequin · 68th Annual Grammy Awards · 2025 · Participant



**Grammy® Nomination — Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album**

Chris Walden Big Band · Home of My Heart · 2005 · Featured Saxophonist



**Nevada Arts Council Grant Recipient**

HEROES Album Production · 2025



**Grammy® Consideration — HEROES Album**

Submitted August 2025 · Composer · Producer · Engineer · Mixer · Performer



## Selected Discography

2025 — Grammy® Considered

## HEROES ↗

Vegas Records · Composer · Producer · Engineer · Mixer  
· Performer · 14 tracks · 70 min

2005 — Grammy® Nominated

## Home of My Heart ↗

Chris Walden Big Band · Featured Saxophonist

2021

## My Ideal ↗

Featuring Patrick Hogan

2020

## Raga Chillin' ↗

Indian raga · bass clarinet and flutes

2020

## Dolphin Dance ↗

Jazz fusion · Herbie Hancock inspired

2001

## The Instigator

Studio album · progressive jazz

1996

## One Take ↗

Live at Unterfahrt Jazz Club, Munich · Bandcamp

## INSTRUMENTS

---

### SAXOPHONE FAMILY

Soprano · Alto · Tenor · Baritone

### FLUTE FAMILY

Concert Flute · Alto Flute · Piccolo · Wood Flutes

### CLARINET FAMILY

Clarinet (Bb) · Bass Clarinet

### WORLD & ELECTRONIC

Didgeridoo · Wind Controller · Electronic EFX · Keyboards · Percussion

### PRODUCTION

Audio & MIDI Production Workstation

## LANGUAGES

---

English — Native

German — Fluent

## SOFTWARE & TECHNOLOGY

---

**DAW** Avid Pro Tools

---

**Notation** Finale · MuseScore · Dorico

---

**Audio** iZotope Suite

---

**Video** Final Cut Pro · iMovie

---

**Design** GIMP · Adobe Suite

---

**Web** WordPress · HTML

---

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

ASCAP

MLC

AFM

SoundExchange

## ENDORSEMENTS

---

Trevor James Signature Saxophones ↗

---

Trevor James Flutes ↗

---

D'Addario Woodwinds ↗

---

Reed Geek ↗

---

10mfan Mouthpieces ↗

---

BG France ↗

---

Falcon Woodwinds ↗

---

Ollo Audio ↗

---

## TEXTBOOK PARTNERS

---

Avid Pro Tools ↗

---

iZotope ↗

---

GIMP ↗

---

PG Music ↗

---

## CONNECT

---

 [Saxsonic.com](https://www.saxsonic.com)

 [richard.keller@unlv.edu](mailto:richard.keller@unlv.edu)

 [@rickkellersax](https://www.instagram.com/rickkellersax)

 [YouTube Channel](#)

 [Bandcamp](#)

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE & MUSIC

# Saxsonic Music™ Shop

 [VISIT THE SHOP](#)

Official Saxsonic Music™ merchandise, physical CDs, and music products. Every purchase directly supports Rick Keller and independent jazz music. Ships worldwide.



## Music

CDs & signed editions



## Apparel

T-shirts & hoodies



## Accessories

Caps & tote bags



## Lifestyle

Mugs & more

Free shipping on qualifying orders · Print on demand — no waiting · Ships worldwide

[BROWSE ALL PRODUCTS →](#)

# SAXSONIC™

[SAXSONIC.COM](http://SAXSONIC.COM) [RICHARD.KELLER@UNLV.EDU](mailto:RICHARD.KELLER@UNLV.EDU) [@RICKKELLERSAX](https://twitter.com/RICKKELLERSAX)

SAXSONIC™ © 2026 Richard Keller. All Rights Reserved.