



Michael Waldie photo 2016

**Harrison Goldberg - saxophonist**

## **ImprovArt: Jazz Musician as Painter**

A river of moods, colors, tempos, and textures flows through the expressive landscape navigated by both the jazz musician and the visual artist. As a practitioner of the musical and the visual, I embark on a dual creative journey. When I begin a painting I eagerly anticipate connecting heart and soul with a rich inner music. While creating I look at, and at the same time listen to the painting to hear its underlying melody. And like true jazz artists, as shapes, forms and colors begin their inspired dialogue, a song soon emerges. Unexpectedly, and serendipitously, it might reveal itself in an obscure corner of the piece, just a fragment of dissonant sound occupying a place bisected by broken lines where three or more colors converge.

Space, or silence, can also contribute to and enhance the visual music; the key is to recognize, respect and utilize it wisely.

In the painter's improvisation—as in the jazz musician's—can be heard an entire palette of life experiences explored in color, tone, rhythm, and dynamics.

To be deeply moved, my heart strings must be plucked, bowed and sometimes even slapped like an upright bass. For a painting to accomplish this I must first fathom its music, the deep Prussian blue of sadness, the vibrant ochre of laughter. And if it's there, you can be sure that, like a jazz musician, I'll hear it and respond spontaneously ... with a paint brush!

– **Harrison Goldberg**  
[www.HarrisonGoldbergArts.com](http://www.HarrisonGoldbergArts.com)

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It begins with a large, vertical 'H' that has a horizontal stroke extending to the left. The rest of the signature is more fluid and less legible, but clearly identifies the artist as Harrison Goldberg.