

Andy Scott: Moving on to the Sunday, the final day of the RNCM IWF and the RNCM Saxophone Day itself. You gave a public masterclass in the morning during which you played with the Sax Assault rhythm section that were booked for this session with you (Gwilym Simcock - piano, Ollie Collins - bass, Elliot Henshaw - drums). There seemed to be a tremendous 'buzz' from the audience as the four of you worked together for the first time ever, and in public! How did you feel at the time?! And if possible, could you advise us of a couple of the key points that you convey during a class such as this one?

Bob Mintzer: It was a pleasure to play with Gwilym, Ollie, and Elliot! They are experienced musicians who display a sense of openness and cooperation that is essential in a musical meeting of this kind. We were able to come together and find common ground off which to create some nice music. One of the essential elements in making this happen is having the ability to listen! My approach is to take the stance of trying to "understand" rather than "be understood". I leave lots of space in my playing so that I can hear what the other players are playing, and also afford them the space to respond to what I am playing. In theory, this should be a conversation. Good conversationalists are articulate, sensitive to others, and engaging. I think we achieved this in our performance.