

COMPLETE

DOWNBEAT 43RD ANNUAL STUDENT MUSIC AWARDS

RESULTS



George Mason Latin American Ensemble
from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia

JAZZ SOLOIST

Junior High School Winner

Mitchell Furniss *Trumpet*

Willowcreek Middle School
David Faires
Lehi, UT

Junior High School Outstanding Performances

Austin Snavelly *Drums*

Daniel Boone Area Middle
School
Sarah McAdams
Douglassville, PA

Luciano Soriano *Trombone*

Los Cerritos Middle School
David Blake
Thousand Oaks, CA

Felipe Feldman *Alto Saxophone*

Easterbrook Discovery School
Nils Johnson
San Jose, CA

Vincent Maclauchlan *Guitar*

Oakland School for the Arts
Patrick Anseth
Oakland, CA

Junior High School Honors Winner

Brandon Goldberg *Piano*

Pine Crest School
(Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Giselle Brodsky
Aventura, FL

Junior High School Honors Outstanding Performances

Ben Walker *Guitar*

The Shea Welsh Institute of Jazz
Shea Welsh
Los Angeles, CA

Diogo Feldman *Trumpet and Flugelhorn*

Easterbrook Discovery School
Jeff Lewis
San Jose, CA

High School Winners

Aaron Ouellette *Trumpet*

RHAM High School
Nicholas Kokus
Hebron, CT

Kellin Hanas *Trumpet*

Wheaton North High School
Kent Krause
Wheaton, IL

High School Outstanding Performances

Connor MacLeod *Alto Saxophone*

Plano West Senior High School
Preston Pierce
Plano, TX

Ethan Avery *Trumpet*

Crossroads School for the Arts
and Sciences
Evan Avery
Santa Monica, CA

Grady Flamm *Trumpet*

Rio Americano High School
Josh Murray and Mitch Evett
Sacramento, CA

Oliver Mayman *Vibraphone*

Community High School
Jack Wagner
Ann Arbor, MI

Santiago Lopez *Tenor Saxophone*

Los Alamitos High School
Justin Padilla
Los Alamitos, CA

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Performance

Aidan Taylor

Bass

A.W. Dreyfoos School of the
Arts
Pedro Hernandez
West Palm Beach, FL

High School Honors Winner

Gianna Pedregon *Violin*

Colburn Community School
of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

High School Honors Outstanding Performance

Henry Acker *Guitar*

Duxbury High School
Frank Vignola
Duxbury, MA

Undergraduate College Winners

Artem Badenko (aka Art Baden)

Tenor Saxophone
Berklee College of Music
George Garzone
Boston, MA

Luca Mendoza *Piano*

University of Southern California
Thornton School of Music

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Chad Lefkowitz-Brown,
saxophone
Clairdee, *voice*
Edward Simon, *piano*

David Sánchez, *saxophone*
Jeff Cressman, *trombone*
Julian Lage, *guitar*
Link Lyle, *saxophone*
Mario Guarneri, *trumpet*
Matt Brewer, *bass*
Matt Wilson, *drums*
Mike Rodriguez, *trumpet*
Patrick Wolff, *jazz history*
Randy Vincent, *guitar*

Rebeca Mauleón, *piano*
Steve Davis, *trombone*
Warren Wolf, *vibraphone*



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Ben Markley
Piano/Director of Jazz
Studies

Andy Wheelock
Drum Set

Scott Turpen
Saxophone

Gonzalo Teppa
Bass

Ryan Fourt
Guitar



The Jazz Band from Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

Alan Pasqua
Los Angeles, CA

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Alec Schulman

Piano
Berklee College of Music
Laszlo Gardony
Boston, MA

Benjamin Turner

Guitar
Temple University
Terell Stafford
Philadelphia, PA

Rico Jones

Tenor Saxophone
Manhattan School of Music
Donny McCaslin
New York, NY

Tal Kalman

Tenor Saxophone
University of the Pacific
Patrick Langham
Stockton, CA

Varun Das

Drums
Manhattan School of Music
John Riley
New York, NY

Graduate College Winner

Yessaï Karapetian

Piano
Berklee College of Music
(Global Jazz Institute)
Danilo Pérez
Boston, MA

Graduate College Outstanding Performances

Annie Booth

Piano
University of Colorado Boulder
Thompson Jazz Studies
John Gunther
Boulder, CO

Pongsakorn Lertvanitsutha

Trumpet
University of Music and
Performing Arts, Graz
Jim Rotondi
Graz, Austria

Small Jazz Combo

Junior High School Winner

Harvard-Westlake Jazz Explorers

Harvard-Westlake Middle
School
Starr Schaftel Wayne
Los Angeles, CA

Junior High School Outstanding Performance

Jazz Band

Folsom Middle School
John Zimny
Folsom, CA

High School Winners

Plano West Jazz Sextet

Plano West Senior High School
Preston Pierce
Plano, TX

Children Hearing Music

Rio Americano High School
Josh Murray and Mitch Evett
Sacramento, CA

High School Outstanding Performances

Bad Dudes

Community High School
Jack Wagner
Ann Arbor, MI

Combo A

Downey High School
Corneliu Olariu
Downey, CA

Performing Arts High School Winners

Dreyfoos All-Stars

A.W. Dreyfoos School of the
Arts
Pedro Hernandez
West Palm Beach, FL

Jazz Combo

New World School of the Arts
Jim Gasior
Miami, FL

High School Honors Ensemble Winners

New Soil Ensemble

Young Lions Jazz Conservatory
Gilbert Castellanos
San Diego, CA

SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Combo

SFJAZZ

Dann Zinn
San Francisco, CA

High School Honors Ensemble Outstanding Performance

Advanced Jazz Workshop I

The Jazzschool at California
Jazz Conservatory
Dr. Michael Zilber
Berkeley, CA

Undergraduate College Winners

Identities Project

Conservatorium van
Amsterdam
Simon Rigter
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Outstanding Soloist: Martin
Diaz, Alto Saxophone

Rico Jones Trio

Manhattan School of Music
Donny McCaslin
New York, NY

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance

Los Angeles College of Music Combo

Los Angeles College of Music
Bryan Lipps
Los Angeles, CA

Undergraduate College Outstanding Soloist

Laura Zöschg Vocalist

Quonundrum Trio



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- JAZZ COMBOS

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LAWRENCE
UNIVERSITY
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DOWNBEAT 43RD ANNUAL
STUDENT
MUSIC AWARDS

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST



Artem Badenko



Annie Booth



Kellin Hanas



Gianna Pedregon

Ambitious Improvisers

IMPROVISATION IS THE ESSENCE OF jazz, and the ability to deliver a well-crafted solo is a vital skill. A powerful solo performance requires dedication and commitment to improve that skill through practice and continually meeting musical challenges. Those qualities clearly are present among the honorees in the Jazz Instrumental Soloist category of the 2020 DownBeat Student Music Awards.

Kellin Hanas, a High School division co-winner who will graduate from Wheaton North High School in Illinois this spring, has earned national recognition for her talent on trumpet. Hanas was a member of the 2019 and 2020 editions of Jazz Band of America, as well as the 2019 and 2020 Next Generation Jazz Orchestra and 2020 Next Generation Women in Jazz Combo.

Kent Krause, band director at Wheaton North, has seen recognition grow for Hanas—and knows the hard work she has put in to achieve it.

"Kellin has tremendous natural ability," Krause said. "But what sets her apart is a work ethic that allows her to take it to the next level. She's always practicing and listening, and she even plays piano to figure out how changes work. She has incredible integrity as a player."

Like Hanas, High School Honors division winner Gianna Pedregon was a member of the 2020 Next Generation Women in Jazz Combo, and was part of the 2019 Next Gen Combo as well. A student at Orange County School of the Arts, she also attends the acclaimed Colburn Community School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

"I studied classical violin for six years," Pedregon said. "But I attended a String Project Los Angeles workshop and heard a violinist using a looping pedal and playing a solo over it. I wanted to do that, and that's how I started playing jazz."

In addition to her school band and ensemble performances, Pedregon tries to play with other musicians as often as she can.

"I especially like playing with different drummers because it challenges me," she explained. "There's a place in my neighborhood that has older musicians performing, including a teacher in my school, and they let [other players] sit in with them. That's a good challenge, too."

Undergraduate College division co-winner Artem Badenko's musical journey began in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, and eventually led him to Berklee College of Music in Boston. He started playing alto saxophone at age 10, switched to tenor at 13 and formed his first band and recorded his debut album at 16. Badenko then moved to the Netherlands to attend Prince Claus Conservatoire, where he met visiting instructor Joe Locke.

"Joe was coming twice a year to teach," Badenko recalled. "I was stunned listening to him; I heard so much Coltrane and Parker coming from a vibraphone. I asked to play with him, and afterward we talked about what I wanted to do, which was to go to America and study. He helped me get an audition at Berklee, and I got a full-tuition scholarship."

Badenko—who performs under the stage

name Art Baden—leads his own quartet and plays with the Nikos Chatzitsakos Tiny Big Band. (The namesake leader of that ensemble is a Berklee student who is the Undergraduate College division winner in the Jazz Arrangement category.) The Art Baden Quartet's debut album is scheduled to be released later this year.

Graduate College Outstanding Performance honoree Annie Booth grew up playing the piano, and became interested in jazz in her teens thanks to the non-profit Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. She earned her undergraduate degree in the Thompson Jazz Studies program at the University of Colorado–Boulder, and is currently working on a master's degree there.

Booth won a Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award in 2017 and earned an honorable mention in the 2011 competition. Her SMA entry this year, "Jolly Beach," was chosen for performance at the 2020 Jazz Education Network conference in New Orleans as part of its Young Composer Showcase.

Booth has recorded three albums, and has two more recordings set to be released. In 2017 she led and helped found Shebop, a jazz workshop for young women ages 10–18.

"The Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts was very important for my musical development, and it's a huge passion of mine," said Booth, who now is a program assistant for CCJA. "It's so important to show young women that they have a voice and a place in jazz, and to give them female mentors." —Terry Perkins

UNC JAZZ

DownBeat Student Music Awards 2020



LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Graduate College Winner

UNC Jazz Lab Band I

Dana Landry, Director



LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Graduate College Outstanding Performance

UNC Jazz Vocal Lab

Brennan Baglio, Director



VOCAL JAZZ SOLOIST

Graduate College Outstanding Performance

Amanda Roswick

Brennan Baglio, Professor



ORIGINAL COMPOSITION LARGE ENSEMBLE

Graduate College Outstanding Composition

Greg Weis, "The Imitator"

Drew Zaremba, Professor



OUTSTANDING SOLOIST

Marc Schwartz, Alto Saxophone

Marc Schwartz Quartet

Andrew Dahlke, Professor



OUTSTANDING SOLOIST

Zach Rich, Trombone

Matteo Sabattini Septet

Drew Zaremba, Professor



BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST

Undergraduate College Outstanding Soloist

Samantha Costigan, Vocalist

Brennan Baglio, Professor



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UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**



University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz
Dena DeRose
Graz, Austria

Graduate College Winner

The Frost Septet Spring Group

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Chuck Bergeron
Coral Gables, FL

Graduate College Outstanding Performances

The Void-Quintet

University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz

Ed Partyka
Graz, Austria

Thornton Monday Night Band

University of Southern California
Thornton School of Music
Vince Mendoza
Los Angeles, CA

Graduate College Outstanding Soloists

Marc Schwartz
Alto Saxophone
Marc Schwartz Quartet
University of Northern Colorado
Andrew Dahlke
Greeley, CO

Zach Rich
Trombone

Zach Rich & Matteo Sabattini
Septet
University of Northern Colorado
Drew Zaremba
Greeley, CO

Large Jazz Ensemble

Junior High School Winners

“A Train” Jazz Band

Willowcreek Middle School
David Faires
Lehi, UT

Jazz Band

Sutter Middle School
John Zimny
Folsom, CA

Junior High School Outstanding Performances

Jazz Band

Easterbrook Discovery Middle School
Nils Johnson
San Jose, CA

Jazz Band

Folsom Middle School
John Zimny
Folsom, CA

Jazz Ensemble

Gulliver Academy
Robert Keating
Coral Gables, FL

Jazz Band

Prairie Trail Middle School
Jena McElwain
Olathe, KS

Junior High School Honors Winner

Little Big Band

Caleb Chapman’s Soundhouse
Caleb Chapman
Salt Lake City, UT

High School Winners

Jazz Band I

Green Valley High School
Cara Froelich
Henderson, NV

Jazz Ensemble

Downey High School
Corneliu Olariu
Downey, CA

Waukee Jazz One

Waukee High School
Chris Strohmaier
Waukee, IA

High School Outstanding Performances

AM Jazz Ensemble

Rio Americano High School
Josh Murray

Sacramento, CA

Byron Center Jazz Orchestra

Byron Center High School
Marc Townley
Byron Center, MI

Jazz Band I

Folsom High School
Curtis Gaesser
Folsom, CA

OHS Jazz Ensemble I

Oswego High School
Kevin Schoenbach
Oswego, IL

Performing Arts High School Winners

Jazz Band

Las Vegas Academy of the Arts
Patrick Bowen
Las Vegas, NV

Jazz Workshop Orchestra

Denver School of the Arts
Dave Hammond
Denver, CO

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Performances

Jazz Ensemble I

A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
Pedro Hernandez
West Palm Beach, FL

LACHSA Big Band

Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Alex Hahn
Los Angeles, CA

High School Honors Ensemble Winners

Colburn Jazz Workshop Big Band

Colburn Community School of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Crescent Super Band

Caleb Chapman’s Soundhouse
Caleb Chapman
Salt Lake City, UT

SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Big Band

SFJAZZ
Paul Contos
San Francisco, CA

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New York, NY

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JAZZ ARTS

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS
of DownBeat's 43rd Annual Student Music Awards

COLLEGE

Jazz Soloist

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Varun Das, drums

Student of John Riley

Rico Jones, tenor saxophone

Student of Donny McCaslin

Small Jazz Combo

Undergraduate College Winners (co-winner)

Rico Jones Trio

Donny McCaslin, Director

Latin Group

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Rico Jones Trio

Donny McCaslin, Director

Rico Jones Nonet

Donny McCaslin, Director

Original Composition – Small Ensemble

Graduate College Outstanding Compositions

Rin Seo, “Jazz Suite”

Student of Jim McNeely

PRECOLLEGE

Large Jazz Ensemble

High School Honors Ensemble Outstanding Performance

Precollege Big Band

Chris Rosenberg, Director

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High School Honors Student Outstanding Recording

Esteban Castro

Student of Phillip Kawin

Jazz Arrangement

High School Honors Winner

Esteban Castro, “Little Rootie Tootie”

Student of Phillip Kawin

Original Composition – Small Ensemble

High School Honors Outstanding Compositions

Esteban Castro, “Entranced”

Student of Phillip Kawin

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 Amanda Gardier—jazz saxophone
 Cassius Goens III—jazz percussion
 Freddie Mendoza—jazz trombone
 Dr. Scott Routenberg—jazz piano, jazz composition
 Joel Tucker—jazz guitar
 Nick Tucker—jazz bass

bsu.edu/music



Frost Women's Jazz Vocal Ensemble from the University of Miami

Community College Winner

RCC Jazz Ensemble
 Riverside City College
 Charles Richard
 Riverside, CA

Thornton School of Music
 Bob Mintzer
 Los Angeles, CA

Vocal Jazz Soloist

Junior High School Winner

Sivan Green
 Eckstein Middle School
 Moc Escobedo
 Seattle, WA

Community College Outstanding Performance

Jazz Ensemble
 Mt. San Antonio College
 Jeff Ellwood
 Walnut, CA

High School Winner

Brooke Lambert
 Roosevelt High School
 Jean-Marie Kent
 Seattle, WA

Undergraduate College Winner

Jazz Ensemble
 Butler University
 Matthew Pivec
 Indianapolis, IN

High School Outstanding Performances

Christiana Ruthann Schiller
 Valley Christian High School
 Dr. Michael Jones
 San Jose, CA

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance

BYU Synthesis Big Band
 Brigham Young University
 Ray Smith
 Provo, UT

Graduate College Winner

Jazz Lab Band I
 University of Northern Colorado
 Dana Landry
 Greeley, CO

Tessa Korver
 Roosevelt High School
 Jean-Marie Kent
 Seattle, WA

Will Ryan III
 New Trier High School
 Nathan Landes
 Winnetka, IL

Graduate College Outstanding Performances

Jazz Band I
 Texas A&M University-Kingsville
 Paul Hageman
 Kingsville, TX

High School Honors Winner

Ava Preston
 Tri-C JazzFest Academy
 Dominick Farinacci
 Cleveland, OH

Jazz Ensemble I
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 Dave Loeb
 Las Vegas, NV

Community College Winner

USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra
 University of Southern California

Sasha Ortega
 Long Beach City College
 Andrea Calderwood
 Long Beach, CA

Congratulations to Tri-C JazzFest Academy student **Ava Preston**, 43rd annual DownBeat Student Music Award winner for

Vocal Jazz Soloist,
High School Honors Division

Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist,
High School Honors Outstanding Performance

Preston, of Solon, Ohio, is a four-year student in the Tri-C JazzFest Academy where she studies with director and artist-in-residence Dominick Farinacci at the Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland.

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SAVE THE DATE

for the 41st annual
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SMALL JAZZ COMBO

The Frost Septet
Spring Group

Combo A



Rico Jones



Plano West Jazz Sextet

Power in Unity

ATYPICAL INSTRUMENTATION, DREAM teams and original compositions were all common threads with this year's Small Combo honorees.

A co-winner in the Undergraduate College division, the Rico Jones Trio from Manhattan School of Music is a tenor trio with double bass and drums—a challenging instrumentation usually not pursued early in a saxophonist's development.

"It's a challenge," said Jones, a senior at MSM, in describing the chordless instrumentation while sheltered in place at his family's home in Denver. "It puts a lot more musical responsibility on each of us and demands that we're more creative in the way that we depict harmony, the way that we use rhythm and the way that we arrange standards or even originals."

Jones, bassist Gabe Rupe and drummer Julian Archer were high school classmates at Denver School of the Arts. Jones' two bandmates were a year behind him and started at MSM during his sophomore year there. "We do have a history, and we've been fortunate enough to develop that over the years," Jones reflected.

Jones fared remarkably well in numerous SMA categories. In addition to the aforementioned honor, his trio and his namesake nonet both received an Undergraduate College division Outstanding Performance honor in the Latin Group category. In the Jazz Instrumental Soloist category, he was named an Outstanding Performance honoree in the Undergradu-

ate division for his work on tenor saxophone.

The winner of the Graduate College division of the Small Jazz Combo category—The Frost Septet Spring Group from University of Miami's Frost School of Music—boasts an unusual combination of trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, vibraphone, guitar, bass and drums. The SFJAZZ Collective and vibes legend Gary Burton's various bands were points of reference for the septet's vibraphonist, Mackenzie Karbon. "It makes you realize that there's so much you *don't* have to play," Karbon said when asked about interacting with six other musicians.

"I would say the overarching goal was to play with cohesion and solidarity," she added. Addressing the Frost collective's approach, she pointed out that some members of the group were undergraduate students who had played with each other for more than three years.

Of the members' original compositions that the septet has performed, Karbon specifically highlighted "Year In A Glow," written by guitarist Jordan Rattner. "It was a ballad, and it was gorgeous," she reflected. "Having a ballad played by seven people is extremely challenging. It forced us all to be really mature, and open up our ears as much as possible and be really creative."

At Plano West Senior High School in Texas, the on-the-bandstand talent level of the Plano West Sextet, a High School division co-winner, was exceptional. "It was just one of those really special years where all the stars are aligned," said Preston Pierce, associate band director.

"It's like every kid on every instrument, in any other year, would have been the star of the band. At the beginning of the [school] year, these kids were already where we usually are three-quarters of the way into a typical year."

Pierce can trace the group's success directly to 2017, when his Plano West Jazz Ensemble was selected as a finalist for Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition & Festival. Members of that band went down to the Plano West feeder schools to help run jazz band rehearsals—a practice that continues to this day. "Now, these current kids talk about how impactful it was having those high school kids there [to mentor them]," Pierce said.

Combo A, an Outstanding Performance honoree in the High School division, has thrived on imagination and discipline. "It's a very talented group of people who got together—very creative," said Corneliu "Coco" Olariu, a 20-year veteran music teacher at Downey High School in Southern California.

With a front line of alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone, and a rhythm section of guitar, piano, bass and drums, the members of Combo A were guided to delve into personal expression through composition. "We encourage them to write their own stuff," Olariu said.

Olariu has helped Downey High's jazz program to expand. When he started in 2001, it had a single group, and today it has three bands. Regarding Combo A, he marveled, "They worked on communication between each member, and by the end everyone was listening to everyone at all times." —Yoshi Kato



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Large Ensemble
Undergraduate Winner

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guitar, ensembles

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bass, ensembles

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percussion

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piano

Matt Pivec
*saxophone, ensembles,
Director of Jazz Studies*

Jen Siukola
trumpet, Youth Jazz Program

Erin Benedict
voice, vocal jazz ensemble

Richard Dole
trombone, Youth Jazz Program

DOWNBEAT 43RD ANNUAL
STUDENT
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Gaw Vang Williams
Vocal Jazz Director
Voice

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Voice

Mike McMullen
Saxophone

Phil Tulga
Trombone

Gerry Pineda
Bass

Rick Lotter
Drums

Steve Homan
Guitar

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Assistant Professor
of Jazz Studies



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Frost Fusion Ensemble from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami

**Community College
Outstanding Performance**

Adam Bender
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Dr. Justin Binek
Kansas City, KS

Undergraduate College Winners

Caitlyn Hearne
University of Adelaide
Elder Conservatorium
Anita Wardell
Adelaide, Australia

Faith Hatch
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Dr. Timothy Buchholz
Wausau, WI

**Undergraduate College
Outstanding Performances**

Damoyee Janai Neroes
Berklee College of Music
Eric Gould
Boston, MA

Lexie Lakmann
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Dr. Timothy Buchholz
Wausau, WI

Lora Sherrodd
University of Wyoming
Ben Markley
Laramie, WY

Lucille Wijnands
Purchase College, State University of New York
Alexis Cole
Purchase, NY

Patrick Hogan
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dave Loeb
Las Vegas, NV

Graduate College Winner

Kathryn Sherman
University of North Texas
Rosana Eckert
Denton, TX

**Graduate College
Outstanding Performance**

Amanda Roswick
University of Northern Colorado
Brennan Baglio and Julia Dollison
Greeley, CO

Small Vocal Jazz Group

High School Winner

**Leyden High Schools Vocal
Jazz Ensemble**
Leyden High Schools
Stacy Cunningham
Franklin Park, IL
Outstanding Lead Soloist on 2nd Verse:
Katie Dermody on "New Day"

**High School Outstanding
Performance**

Cary-Grove Jazz Choir
Cary-Grove High School
Patrick Whalen
Cary, IL

**Community College
Outstanding Performance**

JAZZ-ology
Contra Costa College
Dr. Stephanie Austin

TUNED TO PERFECTION



Congratulations to our students and faculty for the following 2020 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards!

Blues/Pop/Rock Group

Community College Winner: The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble
John Stafford II, Director

Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Community College Co-Winner: The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble
John Stafford II, Director

Outstanding Scat Soloist

Noah Haskin for "Reparations" with The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble
John Stafford II, Director

Vocal Jazz Soloist

Community College Outstanding Performance: Adam Bender
Justin Binek, Instructor

Honors Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Outstanding Performance: 2019 Oklahoma Choral Directors Association All-State Jazz Chorus
Justin Binek, Director

Outstanding Soloist

Sarah Teel for "Taking A Chance On Love" with the 2019 Oklahoma Choral Directors Association All-State Jazz Chorus
Justin Binek, Director

JAZZ FESTIVALS AT KCKCC

[Kansas City Vocal Jazz Academy](#)
September 12, 2020

[Kansas City Jazz Workshop](#)
November 16-18, 2020

[2nd Annual m-pact Vocal Festival](#)
November 19-20, 2020

[11th Annual Kansas City Jazz Summit](#)
April 27-30, 2021

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Justin Binek | Theory & Jazz Improvisation | jbinek@kckcc.edu

Ian Corbett | Audio Engineering | corbetti@kckcc.edu

Jim Mair | Instrumental Music | jmair@kckcc.edu

John Stafford | Choral Music | jstafford@kckcc.edu

Full-Tuition Music Scholarships
Available for Fall 2020

Photography by Larry Levenson



The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble



Take One from Niles North High School in Skokie, Illinois



Pongsakorn Lertvanitsutha from the University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz, in Austria

San Pablo, CA
 Outstanding Lead Soloist:
 Matthew Chamberlain on "Lazy
 Bones"

Undergraduate College Winner

Vox Now
 Sacramento State University
 Gaw Vang Williams
 Sacramento, CA
 Outstanding Lead Soloist:
 Brianne Gonzalez on "Jackie"

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance

Frost Women's Jazz Vocal Ensemble
 University of Miami
 Frost School of Music
 Kate Reid
 Coral Gables, FL

Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Junior High School Winner

Eckstein Vocal Jazz I
 Eckstein Middle School
 Moc Escobedo
 Seattle, WA
 Outstanding Lead Soloist: Nadia
 Luke on "Deedle's Blues"

Junior High School Outstanding Performance

Grass Valley Vocal Jazz
 Grass Valley Elementary
 Natalie Wilson
 Camas, WA

High School Winners

Impressions
 Meadowdale High School
 Jeff Horenstein
 Lynnwood, WA
 Outstanding Lead Soloist on
 1st Verse: Joshua Reynolds on
 "Endless Lawns"

Two N' Four
 Valencia High School
 Christine Tavares-Mocha
 Valencia, CA
 Outstanding 2nd Soloist: Sophia
 Bellefeuille on "The Sound Of
 Silence"
 Outstanding Lead Soloist on 1st
 Verse: Jaden Lewis on "I'd Stop
 Time"

High School Outstanding Performances

Jazz and Madrigal Ensemble
 Fort Zumwalt West High School

The UNL Glenn Korff School of Music says Congrats!

Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Jazz Singers
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Glenn Korff School of Music
 David von Kampen
 Lincoln, NE
 Outstanding Beginning Soloist:
 Stefanie Vanderbeek on "Fly Away Birdie"

About Jazz Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The award-winning UNL Jazz Studies Area is a vital part of the Glenn Korff School of Music. Offering graduate degrees in jazz studies (MM and DMA), the program is designed to be an intimate course of study, allowing our renowned faculty to work closely with our students to develop them as comprehensive teachers and performers. Area ensembles are open to any UNL student, regardless of major, through auditions held in the first week of the fall and spring semester.

2021 Graduate Audition Dates
 February 5-6

2021 Undergraduate Audition Dates
 January 22-23
 February 19-20

Jazz Studies Faculty
 Peter Bouffard, guitar
 Paul Haar, saxophone
 Dave Hall, percussion
 Tom Larson, piano
 Greg Simon, trumpet
 Hans Sturm, bass
 Darryl White, trumpet



Stefanie Vanderbeek

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.

Beth Enloe Fritz
 O'Fallon, MO
 Outstanding Lead Soloist:
 Joelle Aaron on "Send One Your
 Love"

Jazz Choir

Folsom High School
 Curtis Gaesser
 Folsom, CA
 Outstanding Male Lead Soloist:
 Nino Cayabyab on "Moody's
 Mood For Love"
 Outstanding Lead Female
 Soloist: Kira Freestone on
 "Moody's Mood For Love"

Take One

Niles North High School
 Daniel Gregerman
 Skokie, IL

**High School Honors
 Ensemble Winner**

**Southern California Vocal
 Jazz Contemporary A
 Cappella Honor Choir**

Various California High Schools
 Christine Helferich Guter, Guest
 Conductor
 California State University, Long
 Beach
 Bob Cole Conservatory
 of Music
 Long Beach, CA

**High School Honors Ensemble
 Outstanding Performance**

**2019 OKCDA All-State
 Vocal Jazz Ensemble**

Various Oklahoma High Schools
 Guest Conductor: Dr. Justin Binek
 Outstanding Soloist: Sarah Teel
 (Mustang High School),
 on "Takin' A Chance on Love"

Community College Winners

Singcopation

Mt. San Antonio College
 Bruce Rogers
 Walnut, CA
 Outstanding Scat Soloist:
 Summer Greer on "Spinnin'
 Wheel"

**The Standard Vocal
 Jazz Ensemble**

Kansas City Kansas Community
 College
 John Stafford II
 Kansas City, KS
 Outstanding Scat Soloist: Noah
 Haskin on "Reparations"

**Community College
 Outstanding Performance**

**Bellevue College Jazz
 Singers**

Bellevue College



OHS Jazz Ensemble I from Oswego High School in Illinois

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Congratulations

Annie Booth
 Jazz Soloist Graduate
 College Outstanding
 Performances

Benjamin Morris
 Original Composition
 – Large Ensemble
 Graduate College
 Winner

Photo: Kelly Maxwell



College of Music
 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE



Vibraphonist Stefon Harris (center) with the Butler University Jazz Ensemble



Byron Center Jazz Orchestra



"A Train" Jazz Band



University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab Band I

Mentorship Yields Results

DURING HIS RUN AS BAND DIRECTOR at Willowcreek Middle School in Lehi, Utah, Dave Faires loved introducing jazz to kids. DownBeat recognized the effectiveness of his efforts by giving Willowcreek's "A Train" Jazz Band its first Student Music Awards honor, as a co-winner in the Junior High School division of the Large Jazz Ensemble category.

"I was an adjunct college band director for a couple of years while teaching at Willowcreek," said Faires, now a professor of music education at Brigham Young University–Idaho. "I oftentimes felt that I could have the same discussions with both groups of students. All ages can make great music, but sometimes the middle school kids embraced things more quickly and were more flexible."

Faires sees improvisation as the key to opening the door toward jazz for middle schoolers. "I try to establish a culture that everybody is an improviser," he explained. "Learning the blues was a major step toward music that gave everyone an opportunity to experiment a little bit."

Community involvement also has been important. "A few years ago, I went to the 7-Eleven across the street from the school and asked if we could come over and play on their Free Slurpee Day," Faires said. "It was like a three-hour jam session. Improvising in front of people in a low-pressure situation really built their confidence. And the 7-Eleven brought us back and paid us with a check for \$711 every year ever since."

As band and jazz director, Marc Townley

guided the Byron Center Jazz Orchestra to its first SMA: an Outstanding Performance honor in the High School division. "I love working with high school students because at that age they're refining a lot of their skills," Townley noted.

Townley's students benefit from his commitment to bringing famous jazz musicians to the school. "When we started the jazz program 15 years ago, my goal was to bring in a lot of my heroes—the people I'd grown up reading about in DownBeat," he said. "We raise funds for that through ticket sales for the concerts these artists give."

Christian McBride, Wycliffe Gordon, Marcus Printup and Ali Jackson have all visited the school. What was the secret in persuading such heavy hitters to make the trek to Western Michigan? Townley laughed and answered, "I just asked."

Naturally, by the time student musicians enroll in college, they're no longer beginners. Yet their education is by no means complete; here, as in their primary schools, what they learn goes beyond music and enhances their pursuit of whatever goals they set for themselves as adults.

Amaya Arevalo can testify to that. Now a junior at the University of Northern Colorado, with a double major in saxophone and piano, she grew up near the campus in Greeley. During summers in middle school and high school she attended the UNC Jazz Camp.

She took private lessons from Kenyon Brenner, who continues to work with her as

professor of saxophone.

Her loyalty to UNC is understandable, considering the caliber of musicians it produces. The school's Jazz Lab Band I, in which Arevalo plays tenor saxophone, is the winner in the Graduate College division. She credits teachers and fellow students alike for boosting her musicianship and confidence.

"I've heard that other schools are pretty competitive, with people always trying to cut each other—even in practice rooms," Arevalo said. "That's so surprising to me, because this school is so loving and accepting. That's what's so great about this school: People are there for each other."

A supportive environment is also a key factor at Butler University in Indianapolis, home to the BU Jazz Ensemble, which was the winner in the Undergraduate College division.

"We're fortunate to have many great faculty members who foster an environment of cooperation and teamwork," said Matthew Pivec, Butler's director of jazz studies.

The university has established a tradition of bringing to campus international stars for master classes and concerts. Among the jazz artists who have worked with students are Kurt Elling, Stefon Harris, Donny McCaslin, Bobby Sanabria and Maria Schneider.

"Our students quickly realize their heroes are just people who worked really hard and are very passionate," Pivec said. "Students envision the possibilities for their careers by hearing the relatable stories of the professionals."

—Bob Doerschuk

Thomas Alml
 Bellevue, WA
 Outstanding Soloist: Jade Perry
 on "I Know What I've Got"
 Outstanding 1st Vocalese
 Soloist: Marly Mitchell on "Flight
 Of The Foo Birds"
 Outstanding 3rd Vocalese
 Soloist: Santiago Sosa on "Flight
 Of The Foo Birds"

Undergraduate College Winner

**Point of Departure
 Vocal Jazz**

Berklee College of Music
 Grant Heineman and Claudia
 Gruber, Student Directors
 Michael Johnson, Faculty
 Advisor
 Boston, MA

**Undergraduate College
 Outstanding Performances**

**Advanced Vocal Jazz
 Ensemble**

Berklee College of Music
 Ned Rosenblatt
 Boston, MA
 Outstanding Lead Soloist:
 Alianora Reilly on "Song Of Life"

Jazz Singers

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 David von Kampen
 Lincoln, NE
 Outstanding Soloist: Stefanie

Vanderbeek on "Fly Away Birdie"

Graduate College Winners

Pacific Standard Time

California State University, Long
 Beach
 Bob Cole Conservatory of Music
 Christine Helferich Guter
 Long Beach, CA
 Outstanding Scat Soloist: Sarah
 Baiedi on "Nana Das Aguas"

UNT Jazz Singers

University of North Texas
 Jennifer Barnes
 Denton, TX
 Outstanding Scat Soloist: Wes
 Dziedzic on "Course"
 Outstanding Improv Soloist:
 Vaughn Faison on "Estrogenia"

**Graduate College Outstanding
 Performances**

Avenue C

University of North Texas
 Kathryn Sherman
 Denton, TX
 Outstanding Scat Soloist: Hanna
 Song on "Beautiful Moons Ago"

Vocal Lab

University of Northern Colorado
 Brennan Baglio
 Greeley, CO
 Outstanding Lead Soloist: Jim Eads
 on "The Beauty Of All Things"



Robert Acevedo Jr. from the University of Florida in Gainesville



Jazz Workshop Orchestra from Denver School of the Arts



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- Final concert with students and resident faculty

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Leyden High Schools Vocal Jazz Ensemble from Franklin Park, Illinois

Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist

Junior High School Winner

Michael Taylor
Electric Guitar

PA Leadership Charter School
 Sean Townsend
 West Chester, PA

Junior High School Honors Outstanding Performance

Madelyn Smith
Vocalist

Caleb Chapman’s Soundhouse
 Evan Wharton
 Salt Lake City, UT

High School Winner

Miles Magnini
Saxophone

Cary-Grove High School
 Patrick Whalen
 Cary, IL

High School Outstanding Performances

Joy Best
Bass

Alpharetta High School
 Charles Laux and Michael Walsh
 Alpharetta, GA

Victoria Lourdes Whatley
Vocalist

Baldwin County Virtual School
 Teresa Hunter and Dr. Maryann Kyle
 Daphne, AL

Performing Arts High School Winner

Matthew Jazwinski
Bass

Chicago Academy for the Arts
 Jason Patera
 Chicago, IL

High School Honors Winner

Daniel Baldwin
Alto Saxophone

Caleb Chapman’s Soundhouse
 Caleb Chapman
 Salt Lake City, UT

High School Honors Outstanding Performance

Ava Preston
Vocalist

Tri-C JazzFest Academy
 Dominick Farinacci
 Cleveland, OH

Community College Winner

Kaprice Maxwell
Vocalist

The School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College
 Dr. Jeremy Fox
 Creston, IA

Undergraduate College Winner

Maya Stepansky
Drums

Princeton University
 Rudresh Mahanthappa
 Princeton, NJ

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance

Samantha Costigan
Vocalist

University of Northern Colorado
Brennan Baglio
Greeley, CO

Graduate College Winner

Grayson Nye
Piano

Western Michigan University
Matthew Fries
Kalamazoo, MI

Patrick Whalen
Cary, IL

High School Outstanding Performances

Plano West Jazz Sextet

Plano West Senior High School
Preston Pierce
Plano, TX

Quincy Avenue Rhythm Band

Kent Denver School
Justin Adams
Englewood, CO

RCC Jazz Ensemble from Riverside City College in California



BLUES/POP/ROCK GROUP

Junior High School Honors Winner

Jukebox Antihero

Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse
Evan Wharton
Salt Lake City, UT

High School Winners

Briarcrest Soundscape

Briarcrest Christian School
Michael Parsons
Eads, TN

Cary-Grove Jazz Combo

Cary-Grove High School

High School Honors Ensemble Winners

Max Headroom

Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse
Evan Wharton
Salt Lake City, UT

Voodoo Orchestra

Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse
Caleb Chapman
Salt Lake City, UT

High School Honors Ensemble Outstanding Performances

Deep Pocket

Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse
Steven Ramos and Evan Wharton
Salt Lake City, UT



Singcopation from Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California

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SCVA VJCA Rep/Honor Choir Manager: Christine Tavares-Mocha
SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Asst. Manager: Carrah Stamatakis
SCVA VJCA Sound Engineer: Robert Mueller
SCVA President: Rachelle Randeon
SCVA High School Honor Choir Co-Chairs: Matthew Netto and Michael Ushino



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Victor Ochoa from Long Beach City College in California

Soul Research Foundation

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Evan Wharton
Salt Lake City, UT

Community College Winner

The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Kansas City Kansas Community College
John Stafford II
Kansas City, KS

Undergraduate College Winner

Frost Funk Ensemble

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Steve Rucker
Coral Gables, FL

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Rock Ensemble I

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Kevin Kjos
Kutztown, PA

Commercial Break

Vanderbilt University
Ryan Middagh and Jeff Coffin
Nashville, TN

Frost Fusion Ensemble

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Steve Rucker
Coral Gables, FL

Graduate College Winner

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Julian Tanaka
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JAZZ-ology

CONGRATULATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Community College
Small Vocal Jazz Group
Outstanding Soloist - Matthew Chamberlain

Jazz Faculty: Dr. Stephanie Austin, Clinton Day, Roger Letson, Fred Randolph

School of Applied Commercial Music

CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE

Graduate College Outstanding Performance

Lushh

Western Michigan University
Andrew Rathbun
Kalamazoo, MI

Latin Group

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Performance

Dreyfoos Latin All-Stars

A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
Pedro Hernandez
West Palm Beach, FL

Undergraduate College Winner

Lawrence University Latin Jazz Band

Lawrence University
José Encarnación
Appleton, WI

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

Rico Jones Trio

Manhattan School of Music
Donny McCaslin
New York, NY

Rico Jones Nonet

Manhattan School of Music

Donny McCaslin
New York, NY

Graduate College Outstanding Performances

George Mason Latin American Ensemble

George Mason University
Juan Megna
Fairfax, VA

Jalousie

Western Michigan University
Scott Cowan
Kalamazoo, MI

Original Composition – Small Ensemble

Junior High School Honors Winner

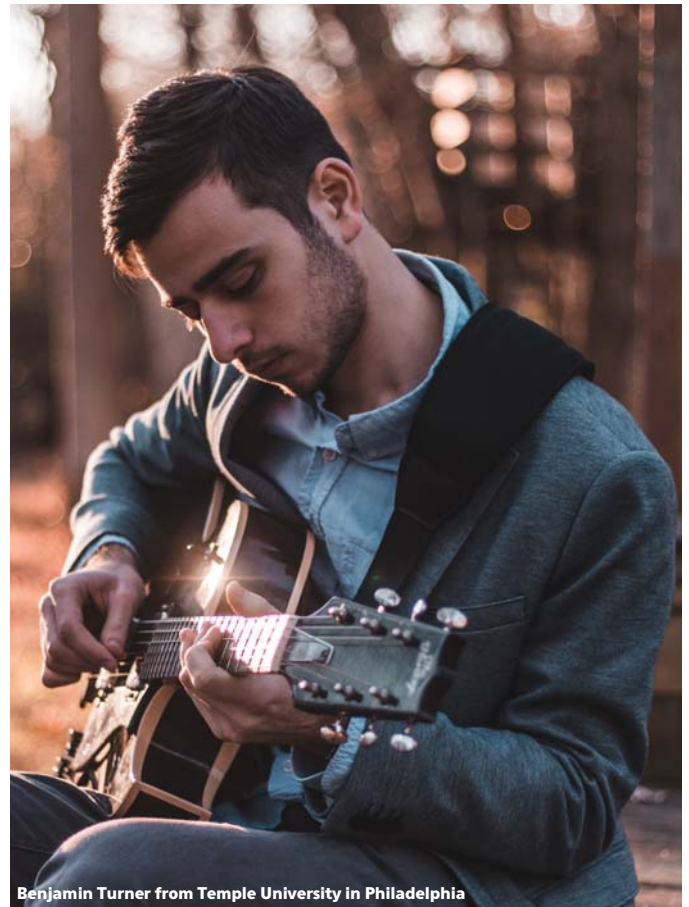
Brandon Goldberg, “Unimagined Enemy”

Pine Crest School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Dave Ballou
Litchfield Jazz Camp (Washington, CT)

High School Winners

Connor MacLeod and Colman Burks, “Dunes”

Plano West Senior High School



Benjamin Turner from Temple University in Philadelphia

A large group of students in white shirts and dark shorts are performing outdoors. They are playing various instruments including saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a drum set. They are seated on a paved area with a building and trees in the background.

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The Jazz Band is open to students in grades 7 and 8 with previous instrumental experience.

For more information, contact Robert Keating, Director of Bands, at kear@gulliverschools.org or visit us at gulliver.life/jazz

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Yessaï Karapetian from the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee College of Music in Boston

Preston Pierce
 Plano, TX

High School Outstanding Compositions

Chris Ghaffar, "Slanted"
 Plano West Senior High School
 Preston Pierce
 Plano, TX

Dan Ventura, "Waves"
 North Kingstown High School
 Toni Silveira
 North Kingstown, RI

Leo Major, "Rising Embers"
 Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences
 Evan Avery
 Santa Monica, CA

Performing Arts High School Winner

Luke Sterling, "Signifier"
 Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
 Daniel Rotem
 Los Angeles, CA

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Composition

Oliver Tuttle, "Backyard Boogie"
 Oakland School for the Arts
 Dave Ellis
 Oakland, CA

High School Honors Winners

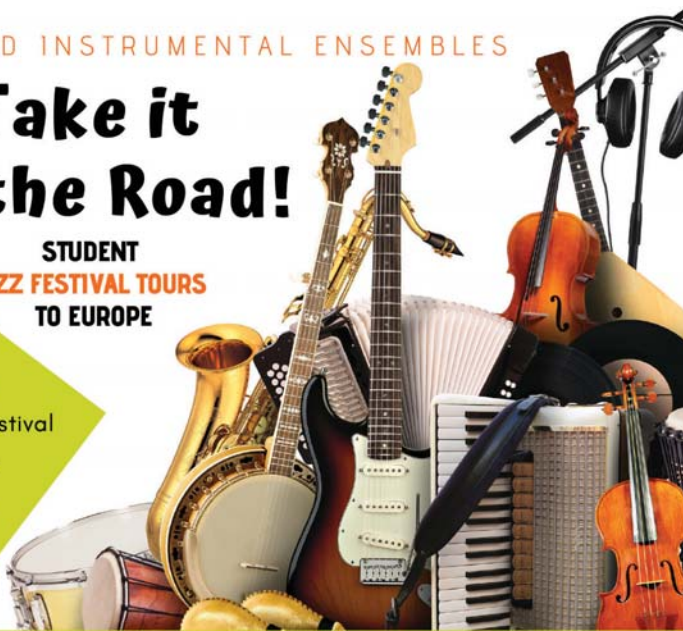
Joshua Wong, "Rolling With The Punches"
 Colburn Community School

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of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Lucas Perry, "Salt And Pepper"

San Francisco University High School
Peter Horvath
San Francisco, CA

High School Honors Outstanding Compositions

Esteban Castro, "Entranced"

Bergen County Academies
Phillip Kawin
(Manhattan School of Music Precollege program)
New York, NY

Ethan Avery, "Hopefully I'll Know"

Colburn Community School of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Jasper Talwani, "Eschatology"

Colburn Community School of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Sean Harbour, "Harbour Lights"

Colburn Community School of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Undergraduate College Winners

Luca Mendoza, "Contract"

University of Southern California
Thornton School of Music
Bob Mintzer
Los Angeles, CA

Marcello Carelli, "Resilience"

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Steve Rucker
Coral Gables, FL

Seth Giles, "Paul's Carpentry"

Oklahoma State University
Paul Compton
Stillwater, OK

Undergraduate College Outstanding Compositions

Joseph Mueller, "The Truman"

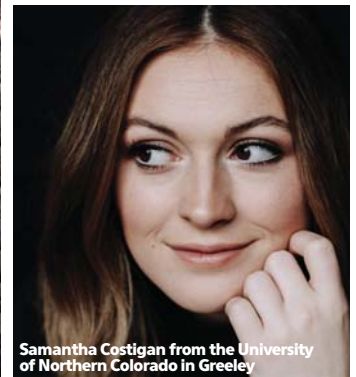
University of Adelaide
Elder Conservatorium



Henry Acker from Duxbury High School in Massachusetts



Victoria Lourdes Whatley from Baldwin County Virtual School in Daphne, Alabama



Samantha Costigan from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley

Congratulations FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

Small Jazz Combo
Graduate College Winner
The Frost Septet Spring Group
Chuck Bergeron

Original Composition — Small Ensemble
Undergraduate College Winner
Marcello Carelli, "Resilience"
Steve Rucker

Undergraduate College Outstanding Compositions
Mackenzie Karbon, "Song for Irving's Lemon Tree"
Chuck Bergeron

Engineered Studio Recording
Graduate College Winner
Bryan Kennard
Gary Lindsay

Graduate College Outstanding Recording
Christian George
Chuck Bergeron

Jazz Arrangement
Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements Big Band
Eli Feingold, "Naima"
Gary Lindsay

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements Small Ensemble
Bryan Kennard, "Beat 70"
Gary Lindsay

Graduate College Winner Vocal
Alan Hsiao, "James"
Gary Lindsay

Original Composition — Large Ensemble
Graduate College Outstanding Compositions
Bryan Kennard, "Mine"
Gary Lindsay

Engineered Live Recording
Graduate College Winner
Bryan Kennard
Gary Lindsay

Small Vocal Jazz Group
Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance
Frost Women's Jazz Vocal Ensemble
Kate Reid

Blues/Pop/Rock Group
Undergraduate College Winner
Frost Funk Ensemble
Steve Rucker

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances
Frost Fusion Ensemble
Steve Rucker



FROST SEPTET SPRING GROUP



BRYAN KENNARD



GARY LINDSAY



WOMEN'S JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE



It is my distinct pleasure that for two years in a row my students have received Outstanding Performance nods from DownBeat in the Jazz Soloist category: Max Holm was an honoree in 2019, and Alec Schulman is an honoree this year. I'm very proud of Max and Alec, and I feel privileged that - as a Berklee Piano Professor - I am in the position to help these young, talented musicians!



LASZLO GARDONY
 Berklee Professor of Piano
 Berklee College of Music | Boston
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BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST



Grayson Nye



Maya Stepansky



Kaprice Maxwell



Joy Best

Talented Players Soar

THE HONOREES IN THE BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST CATEGORY clearly have superb talent as a common denominator.

High School Outstanding Performance honoree Joy Best is a senior at Alpharetta High School in Georgia. Best started out playing piano, became interested in guitar and then began playing bass. Attending a Berklee College of Music camp last summer turned out to be a defining moment. "It was a life-changing experience being surrounded by people as passionate about music as me," Best said. "I also met Victor Wooten, and we ended up going out for pizza. My SMA submission included a version of "Isn't She Lovely" that was inspired by him."

Kaprice Maxwell, a winner in the Community College division, is a vocal student at The School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa. She grew up in Milwaukee with an early focus on church choir music.

"I started singing very early," Maxwell said, "I joined the Milwaukee Children's Choir when I was 7. I went on to sing with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony, and at Milwaukee High School of the Arts I was in choir, orchestra and the vocal jazz group."

Maya Stepansky, winner of the Undergraduate College division, started her musical career in Montclair, New Jersey, with her grade school's precision drum corps. In high school, she performed and recorded with the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet. She is now finishing her sophomore year at Princeton University, where she's had the opportunity to study with Rudresh Mahanthappa, the university's director of jazz, and visiting artists Terri Lyne Carrington and Ambrose Akinmusire. She performs with rising pop musician Julien Chang's band, The Deep Green.

"Although I'm a jazz-trained drummer, it's cool to be recognized in other styles," Stepansky said. "I love to be as versatile as I can."

Graduate College division winner Grayson Nye will receive his master's in jazz studies this spring at Western Michigan University, where he also earned his bachelor's. His SMA submission, "Into The Grey Havens," reflects an eclectic approach to combining different elements.

"It's an original composition that combined rhythm section and sax with an extra keyboard, a string quartet and Western's vocal jazz group, Gold Company," Nye said. "The lyrics are from a poem in *The Lord of the Rings*, and they include the line, "west of the moon, east of the sun." I took the melody of the standard 'East Of The Sun And West Of The Moon' and flipped it for the melody of my song."

—Terry Perkins

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Mark Ferguson
Adelaide, Australia

Mackenzie Karbon, "Song For Irving's Lemon Tree"

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Chuck Bergeron
Coral Gables, FL

Tommy Schilb, "Tank"

Ball State University
Scott Routenberg
Muncie, IN

Graduate College Winner

Yessaï Karapetian, "Ti(m)es"

Berklee College of Music
(Global Jazz Institute)
Danilo Pérez
Boston, MA

Graduate College Outstanding Compositions

Rin Seo, "Jazz Suite"

Manhattan School of Music
Jim McNeely
New York, NY

Ursula Reicher, "What"

University of Music and
Performing Arts, Graz
Ed Partyka
Graz, Austria



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High School Winner

Jackson Irvine, "For Mr. Mintzer"

Rio Americano High School
Josh Murray and Mitch Evett
Sacramento, CA

High School Outstanding Composition

Bryce Hayashi, "The Place I Call Home"

Northgate High School
Greg Brown
Walnut Creek, CA

Performing Arts High School Winner

Aron Stornaiuolo, "A Midnight In Detroit"

North Carolina School of the Arts
Ronald Rudkin
Winston-Salem, NC

High School Honors Winner

Benny Conn, "Lava Cake After School"

Colburn Community School
of Performing Arts
Lee Secard
Los Angeles, CA

Community College Winner

Victor Ochoa, "De La Rosa"

Long Beach City College
Patrick Sheng
Long Beach, CA

Undergraduate College Winners

Jason Mountario, "Fake People"



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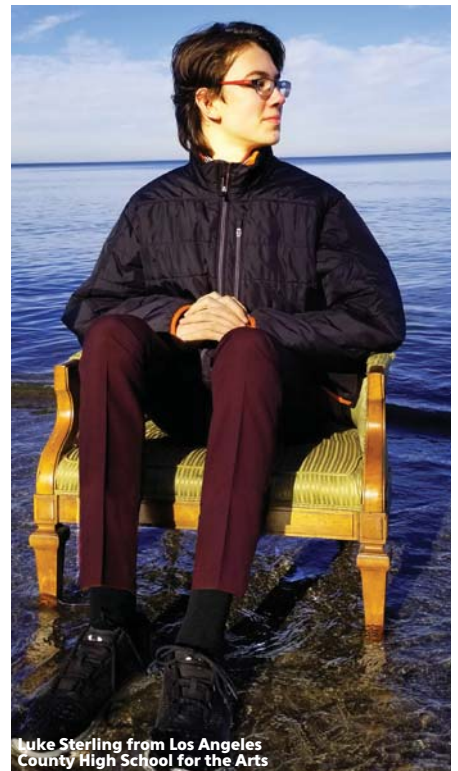
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UNCSA School of Music joins Downbeat in saluting Aron Stornaiuolo for his award: Winner, "A Midnight In Detroit" in the Original Composition, Large Ensemble category, Performing Arts High School division.

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Luke Sterling from Los Angeles County High School for the Arts

Berklee College of Music
Bob Pilkington
Boston, MA

Yoko Suzuki, "Hmmm"
Berklee College of Music
Greg Hopkins
Boston, MA

Graduate College Winner

Benjamin Morris, "Ymir's Bones"
University of Colorado Boulder
Thompson Jazz Studies
Carter Pann
Boulder, CO

Graduate College Outstanding Compositions

Bryan Kennard, "Mine"
University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Gary Lindsay
Coral Gables, FL

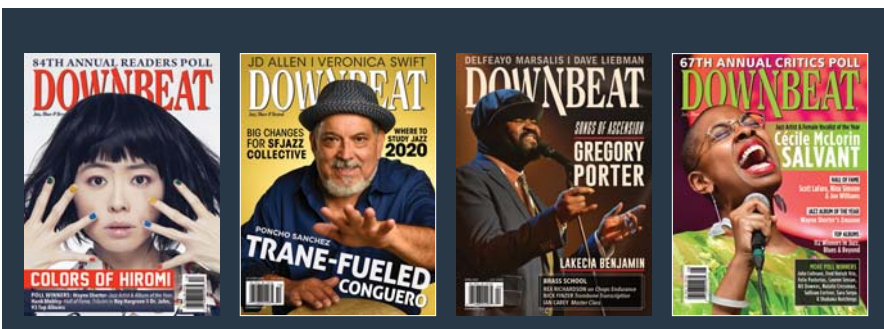
Greg Weis, "The Imitator"
University of Northern Colorado
Drew Zaremba
Greeley, CO

Summer Kodama, "Wind Over Water"
McGill University
Joe Sullivan
Montreal, Canada

Jazz Arrangement

Junior High School Honors Winner

Brandon Goldberg, "Blackbird"
Pine Crest School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Giselle Brodsky
Aventura, FL



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High School Winner

Jason Obuobisa, "Markos And Markos"
West Ranch High School
Brian Leff
Stevenson Ranch, CA

High School Outstanding Arrangement

Jackson Irvine, "Orange Was The Color Of Her Dress, Then Blue Silk"
Rio Americano High School
Josh Murray and Mitch Evett
Sacramento, CA

Performing Arts High School Winner

Tal Kalman, "I Loves You Porgy"
Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts
Eli Benacot
Givatayim, Israel

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Arrangement

Samuel Martin, "I Thought About You"
Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Bob Lawrence
Dallas, TX

High School Honors Winner

Esteban Castro, "Little Rootie Tootie"
Bergen County Academies
Phillip Kawin (Manhattan School of Music Precollege program)
New York, NY

Community College Winner

Bralen Martin, "Eye Of The Tiger"
Hutchinson Community College
Neal Allsup
Hutchinson, KS

Undergraduate College Winner

Nikos Chatzitsakos, "I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face"
Berklee College of Music
Jackson Schultz
Boston, MA

Undergraduate College Outstanding Arrangements

Grant Heineman, "I Can't Help It"
Berklee College of Music
Michael Johnson
Boston, MA

Paulo Santos, "Seven Steps To Heaven"
University of Texas at Austin
John Mills
Austin, TX

Graduate College Winner-Vocal

Alan Hsiao, "James"
University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Gary Lindsay
Coral Gables, FL

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangement-Vocal

Reginald BOWENS, "Our Love Is Here To Stay"
Case Western Reserve University
Paul Ferguson
Cleveland, OH

Graduate College Winner-Small Ensemble

Jorge Machain-Vega, "Boplicity"
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Nathan Tanouye
Las Vegas, NV



Kathryn Sherman from the University of North Texas in Denton



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Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements—Small Ensemble

Anastasiya Petrova, "All The Things Evidence Is"

Berklee College of Music
Eirini Tornesaki
Boston, MA

Bryan Kennard, "Beat 70"

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Gary Lindsay
Coral Gables, FL

Graduate College Winner—Big Band

Nerya Zidon, "All The Way To Sendai"

Berklee College of Music
Alain Mallet
Boston, MA

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements—Big Band

Eli Feingold, "Naima"

University of Miami
Frost School of Music
Gary Lindsay
Coral Gables, FL

Nathan Poehlke, "Come Rain Or Come Shine"

University of Oregon
Steve Owen
Eugene, OR

Seulah Noh, "Have You Heard?"

New England Conservatory
Ken Schaphorst
Boston, MA

Graduate College Winner—Studio Orchestra

David Weinstein, "Little Sunflower"

Belmont University
Dr. Jeff Kirk
Nashville, TN

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangement—Studio Orchestra

Brian Martin, "I Got Rhythm"

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School of Music Precollege
program)
New York, NY

Undergraduate College Outstanding Recording

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Berklee College of Music
Oscar Stagnaro
Boston, MA

Graduate College Winner

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THIS YEAR'S LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE category honorees reflect the timeless beauty of vocal jazz harmonies, as well as the enduring appeal of showcasing an individual who is supported by the entire group.

Jazz artists often come to their music a little later in life than counterparts in other genres. A case in point is Hanna Song. Born in South Korea and trained on piano, she wasn't even acquainted with jazz until enrolling at Glendale Community College in California. On a whim, the graphic design major signed up for jazz choir and became so enamored that she transferred to the University of North Texas.

A crash course followed, with Song targeting Carmen McRae, Sara Gazarek and Darmon Meader as guiding lights. She applied what she'd learned about intervals and harmonies from her piano study to get inside the charts as she began singing with the UNT ensemble Avenue C, which received an Outstanding Performance honor in the Graduate College division. The results can be heard in her wordless solo on the band's rendering of "Beautiful Moons Ago," which earned her a special Outstanding Scat Soloist distinction.

Sara Baiedi, a jazz studies major at California State University, Long Beach, received an Outstanding Scat Soloist distinction for her performance with the group Pacific Standard Time, a winner in the Graduate College division. The jazz studies major began singing in elementary school, memorized scat solos by Ella Fitzgerald, drew from Anita O'Day's lyricism and got into jazz with help from a guitar-playing friend in high school.

"He helped me learn jazz chords on the guitar and how to comp," she remembered. "That was super helpful as a jazz singer, to be

in the rhythm section first."

On Pacific Standard Time's version of "Nana Das Aguas," Baiedi begins her scat improvisation with a quote from "Anthropology." "People hear you do Charlie Parker over a samba and go, 'That's cool!'" she said. "Then I just saw where things went in terms of fitting into the changes."

Noah Haskin earned an Outstanding Scat Soloist recognition for his performance on "Reparations" with the Kansas City Kansas Community College's Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble, a winner in the Community College division. Haskin also wrote the arrangement.

"Scat is not about filling up the time with notes," said John Stafford II, director of the ensemble. "Spacing is important. I've been working on the idea of using syncopation and long, sustained notes, the character of the scat and the line, more than teaching scales to scat over. Noah gets that."

Joshua Reynolds' lead vocals on "Endless Lawns" with Impressions—the vocal jazz ensemble at Meadowdale High School in Lynnwood, Washington—earned him an Outstanding Lead Soloist distinction.

Jeff Horenstein, choir director and music department chair at Meadowdale, said that the group's performance was based on a Kurt Elling recording. "When I heard the tune, I thought it would be a cool fit for these singers and for Josh in particular," Horenstein said. "Josh is a super-talented musician. He's our first-chair viola player in the orchestra, as well as a singer in all of our choirs. One time, when we had a gig and the guitar player was unavailable, he said, 'I can figure this out.' He didn't just comp and play changes; he read the notes perfectly, too." —Bob Doerschuk

JUDGING CRITERIA

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- 1) Overall sound
- 2) Presence or authority
- 3) Proper interpretation of idiom
- 4) Improvisation or creativity
- 5) Technique
- 6) Intonation
- 7) Phrasing
- 8) Dynamics
- 9) Accurate rhythm/time
- 10) Material

ENGINEERING CRITERIA

- 1) Perspective: balance of channels; amount and type of reverb; blend (Do all sounds seem to have been performed at the same time and place? Do solos seem natural or do they stick out?).
- 2) Levels: saturation or other overload, under modulation resulting in excessive hiss, consistency of levels, left/right balance, etc.
- 3) Transparency and apparent transient response.
- 4) Special effects: Are they appropriate? Do they add or detract?
- 5) Extraneous noises, clicks, hum, etc. (for a non-live performance, any non-musical sound).
- 6) Professional etiquette.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Plaques are awarded to the music department of each winning middle school, high school and college. Certificates are awarded to each winner (or Outstanding Performance honoree) and to the director of ensembles.

JUDGES

Jim Anderson: Grammy winner and professor at NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music.

Darcy James Argue: Composer, arranger and bandleader.

Jeff Baker: Recording artist, educator, producer, composer and co-founder of The Reality Book, the Jazz Forward Competition and Next Records.

Justin Binek: Vocalist, pianist, composer, arranger, educator; member, NAJME Council for Jazz Education.

Janice Boria: Vocalist; Director of Vocal Jazz, North Central College; vocal jazz camp founder.

Don Braden: Saxophonist, flutist, composer, arranger; Music Director, Litchfield Jazz Camp.

Jeff Coffin: Saxophonist, bandleader, composer, educator/clinician.

Claire Daly: Baritone saxophonist, recording artist, composer, educator/clinician.

John Daversa: Chair, Department of Studio Music and Jazz, Frost School of Music, University of Miami.

Orbert Davis: Emmy Award-winning trumpeter, composer, educator; co-founder, conductor of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic.

Les Hooper: Composer, arranger for film, TV, commercials, orchestra and recordings; clinician.

Fred Irby III: Howard University coordinator of Instrumental Music, trumpet instructor and Director of the Howard University Jazz Ensemble.

Bart Marantz: Legendary jazz educator whose bands have won 245 DownBeat Student Music Awards.

Miles Osland: Saxophonist; Director of Jazz Studies, University of Kentucky.

Bob Parsons: Saxophonist, arranger and composer.

Dave Rivello: Eastman School of Music Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media, and Director, New Jazz Ensemble.

Albert Rivera: Saxophonist, composer, educator; Director of Operations, Litchfield Jazz Camp.

John Santos: Percussionist, clinician, label owner; U.S. Artists Fontanals Fellow; writer/historian.

Gregory Tardy: Recording artist, Assistant Professor of Jazz Saxophone, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Ryan Truesdell: Bandleader, composer, arranger, trombonist, clinician.

James Warrick: Educator/clinician, former Director of Jazz Studies at New Trier High School.



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Sound Alliance is the premier jazz ensemble of BYU–Idaho, located in Rexburg.

BYU–Idaho Expounds on the Jazz Tradition

DR. MARK WATKINS, WHO HEADS THE jazz studies program at Brigham Young University–Idaho, has a long history with the school. He left the music department at North Dakota State University in 1999 to join the faculty at what was then called Ricks College, a two-year institution in Rexburg, Idaho. And he saw the potential for growth, especially in the area of jazz.

“Wilson Brown was running the music program,” Dr. Watkins recalled. “[It] had a commercial focus, but Wilson and Matt Miles, the music librarian, had started an improv class in the evening and a lab band that rehearsed in the track locker room under the stadium. They developed an ensemble, and that was the starting point for the jazz studies program.”

Jazz at Ricks grew more quickly than Watkins had envisioned. An annual festival began in 1999, and in 2001, Ricks transitioned into a four-year university under its current name. On-campus enrollment grew from 9,000 to more than 19,000 today, and the addition of online courses pushed total enrollment to nearly 40,000 students.

Working within the university’s newly implemented three-semester track system, Watkins, who became director of the jazz program in 2001, augmented the music department faculty with adjunct and visiting faculty members, as well as guest lecturers. The school now offers a variety of bachelor’s options, including degrees in jazz studies and performance.

“We hired Kobie Watkins, a talented drummer who substituted for Terri Lyne Carrington at our 2014 jazz festival, as our jazz percussion

guest lecturer,” Watkins said. “And pianist Justin Nielsen, who is an outstanding performer and teacher from Boise, now teaches our rhythm section students as a guest lecturer.”

“I live in Durham, North Carolina,” Kobie Watkins explained. “So, I fly up to BYU–Idaho two times a semester. I come in for three to five days to teach and conduct master classes, as well as doing outreach to area high schools. ... It’s about creating a base-learning experience and strong fundamentals—and building on that, so they can move forward, further and faster.”

Currently, the BYU–Idaho program has two big bands, three jazz combos and a 12-voice group called Vocal Union. The premier band, Sound Alliance, has toured nationally and internationally.

“We now have a curriculum that includes two improv classes, one in composition and arrangement, two levels of jazz history, as well as classes in audio engineering, Pro Tools, jazz ensemble and jazz big band,” Dr. Watkins said.

But he emphasized that the growth of jazz studies is dependent on the support of the entire music department—and the Rexburg community. “We focus on the student body as a whole,” he said. “Music education majors are most of the music school population. They need experience in jazz, and we provide that.”

At press time, BYU–Idaho students’ lives had changed drastically due to the coronavirus pandemic, as the state of Idaho was under a stay-at-home order, and university officials were planning to conduct spring semester classes remotely and online.

—Terry Perkins



Cassandra Wilson

Honorary Doctorates: Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee will present honorary doctorates to five influential artists in the performing arts during virtual commencement ceremonies on May 9. Musicians Cassandra Wilson, Sheila E. and John Legend will receive honorary Doctor of Music degrees from the college, and dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and stage actor André De Shields will receive honorary Doctor of Arts degrees from the conservatory. From remote locations around the world, a group of student performers representing the college and conservatory class of 2020 will unite as a collaborative virtual ensemble to record a multi-genre tribute to the honorees, with accompanying split-screen-style videos. The prerecorded tribute will air on May 8 on Berklee’s YouTube channel, and the ceremonies will be streamed on Berklee social media accounts the following day. berklee.edu

Emergency Fund: The Board of Directors of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation has created The Louis Armstrong Emergency Fund for Jazz Musicians to provide \$1 million in financial support to musicians (vocalists and instrumentalists) in the New York metropolitan area who have lost income due to coronavirus-related closures. The fund will award one-time grants of \$1,000 to assist individual freelance jazz musicians who work with regularity in the five boroughs of New York City. A selection committee consisting of area club owners, scholars, presenters and media activists will evaluate each application. louisarmstrongfoundation.org

Intense Summer: The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will add two new programs, Global Jazz and Songwriting, to its lineup of weeklong online Summer Intensive Programs for high school musicians ages 14–18 this year. The programs are designed to expand knowledge and performance skills while helping students engage with expert instructors and UCLA faculty. Returning for its second year, the Voice Online Intensive Program, which caters to a range of vocal styles and repertoire, will run alongside the Global Jazz program from June 22 to 27. ucla.edu

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