JAZZ SOLOIST

Junior High School Winner
Mitchell Furniss
Trumpet
Willowcreek Middle School
Lehi, UT

Junior High School Outstanding Performances
Austin Snavely
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
Piano West Senior High School
Preston Pierce
Piano, 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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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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Bass
Ryan Fourt
Guitar
43rd Student Music Awards

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
Tereil 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

Yessai 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 Schaffel 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 Lippa
Los Angeles, CA

Undergraduate College Outstanding Soloist

Laura Zöschg
Vocalist
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DownBeat 43rd Annual Student Music Awards
JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST

Ambitious Improvisers

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

Kellin Hanas, a High School division co-win-
ner who will graduate from Wheaton North High School in Illinois this spring, has earned
ational 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 Orches-
tra 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 win-
ner 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," Pe-
dregon 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 ex-
plained. "There’s a place in my neighborhood
that has older musicians performing, includ-
ing a teacher in my school, and they let other
players sit in with them. That’s a good chal-
lenge, 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 start-
ed 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 in-
structor 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 Arrange-
ment category.) The Art Baden Quartet’s de-
but album is scheduled to be released later this
year.

Graduate College Outstanding Perform-
ance 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 Col-
orado–Boulder, and is currently working on a
master’s degree there.

Booth won a Herb Alpert Young Jazz Com-
poser Award in 2017 and earned an honorable
mention in the 2011 competition. Her SMA en-
try this year, "Jolly Beach," was chosen for per-
formance 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 Shubop, a jazz work-
shop for young women ages 10–18.

"The Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz
Arts was very important for my musical de-
velopment, 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

1. LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE
   Graduate College Winner
   UNC Jazz Lab Band I
   Dana Landry, Director

2. LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE
   Graduate College Outstanding Performance
   UNC Jazz Vocal Lab
   Brennan Baglio, Director

3. VOCAL JAZZ SOLOIST
   Graduate College Outstanding Performance
   Amanda Roswick
   Brennan Baglio, Professor

4. ORIGINAL COMPOSITION LARGE ENSEMBLE
   Graduate College Outstanding Composition
   Greg Weis, “The Imitator”
   Drew Zaremba, Professor

5. OUTSTANDING SOLOIST
   Marc Schwartz, Alto Saxophone
   Marc Schwartz Quartet
   Andrew Dahlke, Professor

6. OUTSTANDING SOLOIST
   Zach Rich, Trombone
   Matteo Sabattini Septet
   Drew Zaremba, Professor

7. 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

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 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
Cornelia Oliani
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

SFAJAZZ High School All-Stars Big Band
SFAJAZZ
Paul Contos
San Francisco, CA

High School Honors Ensemble Outstanding Performance
Precollage Big Band
Manhattan School of Music
Precollage program
Chris Rosenberg and Jeremy Manasia
New York, NY

Learn more about the UMass Jazz & African American Music Studies Program at umass.edu/music
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

Engineered Studio Recording
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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Community College Winner
RCC Jazz Ensemble
Riverside City College
Charles Richard
Riverside, CA

Vocal Jazz Soloist
Junior High School Winner
Sivan Green
Eckstein Middle School
Moc Escobedo
Seattle, WA

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

High School Outstanding Performances
Christiana Ruthann Schiller
Valley Christian High School
Dave Loeb
San Jose, CA

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

High School Honors Winner
Ava Preston
Tri-C JazzFest Academy
Dominick Farinacci
Cleveland, OH

Community College Winner
USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra
University of Southern California

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

Thornton School of Music
Bob Mintzer
Los Angeles, CA

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

Jazz Ensemble
Butler University
Matthew Pivec
Indianapolis, IN

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

Graduate College Outstanding Performances
BYU Synthesis Big Band
Brigham Young University
Ray Smith
Provo, UT

Graduate College Outstanding Performances
Jazz Band I
Texas A&M University–Kingsville
Paul Hageman
Kingsville, TX

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

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Undergraduate College Outstanding Composition

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Joel Tucker—jazz guitar
Nick Tucker—jazz bass

bsu.edu/music
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.

Call 216-987-6145 or visit [www.tri-cjazzfest.com](http://www.tri-cjazzfest.com) for more information about Tri-C JazzFest’s educational programs.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

for the 41st annual Tri-C JazzFest, presented by KeyBank:  
June 25-27, 2020!
43rd Student Music Awards

SMALL JAZZ COMBO

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 Undergraduate 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’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
Congratulations, Butler University Jazz Ensemble!

*DownBeat* 43rd Annual Student Music Awards
**Large Ensemble**
*Undergraduate Winner*

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- Ellie Pruneau, piano

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- Jen Siukola, trumpet, Youth Jazz Program
- Erin Benedict, voice, vocal jazz ensemble
- Richard Dole, trombone, Youth Jazz Program

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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: 2019 Oklahoma Choral Directors Association All-State Jazz Chorus
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

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Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

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Lincoln, NE  
Outstanding Beginning Soloist:  
Stefanie Vanderbeek on “Fly Away Birdie”

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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

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

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The UNL Glenn Korff School of Music says Congrats!
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”
Oustanding 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”

Bellevue College Jazz Singers
Bellevue College
Outstanding Performance

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Congratulations

Annie Booth
Jazz Soloist Graduate
College Outstanding Performances

Benjamin Morris
Original Composition – Large Ensemble Graduate College Winner
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
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

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”

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”

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 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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AWARD-WINNING ALUMNI
FOUR JAZZ ENSEMBLES

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The Workshop provides:
- Seven intense days of instruction and mentorship in jazz improvisation, performance, arranging, and history
- Nightly clinics and concerts, meet-the-artist sessions, and an evening at a legendary New York City jazz club
- Final concert with students and resident faculty

For information and online registration go to wpunj.edu/summerjazzworkshop

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**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

**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

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

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

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

RCC Jazz Ensemble from Riverside City College in California

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS
SCVA VOCAL JAZZ / CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA HONOR CHOIR

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SCVA Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir

Southern California Vocal Association

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Salt Lake City, UT
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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
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
Steve Rucker
Coral Gables, FL
Graduate College Winner
UNLV Contemporary Jazz Ensemble
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Julian Tanaka
Las Vegas, NV
Graduate College Outstanding Performance
Lushh
Western Michigan University
Andrew Rathbun
Kalamazoo, MI

Graduate College Outstanding Performances
George Mason Latin American Ensemble
George Mason University
Juan Megna
Fairfax, VA

Jalousie
Western Michigan University
Scott Cowan
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

Junior High School Honors Winner
Brandon Goldberg, “Unimagined Enemy”
Pine Crest School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Dave Ballou
Litchfield Jazz Camp
(Washington, CT)

Undergraduate College Winner
Lawrence University Latin Jazz Band
Lawrence University
José Encarnación
Appleton, WI

High School Winners
Connor MacLeod and Colman Burks, “Dunes”
Plano West Senior High School

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

Original Composition – Small Ensemble
Jalousie
Western Michigan University
Scott Cowan
Kalamazoo, MI

Outstanding performance for a Junior High School Large Jazz Ensemble
The Jazz Band is a nationally recognized group of musicians adhering to a performance-based curriculum. This ensemble participates in as many as fourteen main performances during the year, including community concerts and judged performances. The Jazz Band has scored Superior Ratings at Florida’s Music Performance Assessments 11 years in a row, recently performed at the 71st Midwest Clinic, was invited to perform at JEN, and has won two DownBeat Student Music Awards in the last two years. 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 gulliverlife/jazz.
Preston Pierce
Plano, TX

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

Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Daniel Rotem
Los Angeles, CA

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

Joshua Wong, “Rolling With The Punches”
Colburn Community School
Lucas Perry, “Salt And Pepper”
San Francisco University High School
Peter Horvath
San Francisco, CA

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

Victoria Lourdes Whatley from Baldwin County Virtual School in Daphne, Alabama
Samantha Costigan from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley
Henry Acker from Duxbury High School in Massachusetts

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
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, “Miao”
Gary Lindsay

FROST FUSION ENSEMBLE

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
Bryan Kennard
Gary Lindsay

Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances

CONGRATS TO OUR RETIRING FACULTY!

WOMEN’S JAZZ/VOCAL ENSEMBLE

FROST.AMUL.edu
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
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

Original Composition – Large Ensemble

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”
Northgate High School
Greg Brown
Walnut Creek, 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”

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

BYU Synthesis Big Band from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah

BYU Department of Music

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Boston, MA
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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”
Río Americano High School
Josh Murray and Mitch Evett
Sacramento, CA

Performing Arts High School Winner
Tal Kalman, “I Loves You Porgy”
The尔na 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 Kamin (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 Tanouve
Las Vegas, NV

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Congratulations Temple University Jazz Band
directed by Terrell Stafford, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Inaugural Jack Rudin Jazz Championship
- First Place Winner
- Outstanding Rhythm Section
- Outstanding Trombone Section
- Outstanding Trumpet Section
- Outstanding Tenor Saxophone: Dylan Band
- Outstanding Trumpet: Fareed Simpson-Hankins

Congratulations
Benjamin Turner, guitar
DownBeat Student Music Award Jazz Soloist
Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance

FACULTY
Terrell Stafford
Director of Jazz Studies
Greg Ketlinger
Mike Moreno
PIANO
Bruce Barth
Tim Brey
Jullian Horner
Tom Lawton
Josh Richman
Elio Villartrana
TIMBA
Mike Boone
David Wong
GUITAR
Jake Kelberman
Drums
Justin Faulkner
Steve Fidyk
Byron Landrum
Dan Monaghan
VOICE
Carla Cook
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Ruth Naomi Floyed
Najwa Parkins
SAXOPHONE
Eric Alexander
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Dick Oatts
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TRUMPET
Marcell Bellinger
Joe Magnarelli
Nick Marchione
Jon Shaw
Terrell Stafford
John Swaria
TROMBONE
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Mark Patterson
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ORGAN
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Brigham Young University Jazz
BYU offers a full program of great jazz studies including big bands; mainstream, dixieland and salsa combos; improvisation; jazz composition and arranging; jazz styles and analysis; jazz keyboard; jazz history; recording technology; Pro Tools; songwriting; studio composition; jazz pedagogy; and a world-class faculty:

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- Mark Ammons: large ensemble, admissions and scholarships
- Ron Saltmarsh: guitar, studio composition, commercial music
- Jay Lawrence: drums, vibes, improvisation, combos
- Darren Bastian: drums
- Matt Coleman: drums
- Kristen Bromley: guitar, combos, jazz arranging and composition
- Eric Hansen: bass, show bands
- Steve Lindeman: jazz piano, theory, history
- Steve Erickson: jazz piano
- Jason Bergman: trumpet
- Will Kimball: trombone
- Aaron Merrell: recording and mixing
- Jeff Carter: recording and mixing
- Brian Harker: jazz musicology

Congratulations to SYNTHESIS (BYU’s Premier Big Band)!!
Three-time Downbeat Music Award Winner
Has traveled the globe over the last 37 years (Europe, Russia, Siberia, Japan, China, Brazil, Scandinavia, Caribbean, etc.) This year’s entries were recordings of a live concert in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

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Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements–Small Ensemble
Anastassiya 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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*DownBeat* would like to thank our world-class adjudicators for making the 43rd Annual Student Music Awards a success.

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Jeff Baker  
Justin Binek  
Janice Borla  
Don Braden  
Jeff Coffin  
Claire Daly  
John Daversa  
Orbert Davis  
Les Hooper  
Fred Irby III  
Bart Marantz  
Miles Osland  
Bob Parsons  
Dave Rivello  
Albert Rivera  
John Santos  
Gregory Tardy  
Ryan Truesdell  
James Warrick

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**LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**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 and 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, NAfME Council for Jazz Education.
Janice Borla: 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 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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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 jazz 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
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