

DR. JONATHAN SARAGA

Trumpeter | Flugelhornist | Composer | Arranger | Educator | Producer

Bachelor of Music | Master of Music | Doctor of Musical Arts

jonathan@jonathansaraga.com | (347) 574-2003 | 433 E. 82nd St. Apt. 4E, New York, NY, 10028

TEACHING/SCHOLASTIC EMPLOYMENT *(all as an educator unless otherwise indicated)*

May 2017 – Present: New York Jazz Academy; New York, NY

January 2013 – Present: Afro-Latin Jazz Academy of Music; New York, NY

October 2019 – July 2020: Jazz Empowers; New York, NY

June 2017 – August 2017: Jubilee Summer Enrichment Program; New York, NY

August 2016 – May 2019: Thompson Jazz Studies @ University of Colorado at Boulder; Boulder, CO

September 2015 – June 2016: Lyceum Kennedy International School; New York, NY

August 2015 – July 2016: New York Ensemble Classes; New York, NY

May 2010 – May 2016: Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York; New York, NY

August 2010 – May 2011: Conservatory of Music @ SUNY Purchase; New York, NY *(as Departmental Assistant)*

August 2009 – May 2010: Mason-Gross School of the Arts @ Rutgers University; New Brunswick, NJ *(as Departmental Assistant)*

DEGREES

2019: Doctor of Music Arts degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, University of Colorado, Boulder

2011: Master of Music degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, SUNY Purchase

2009: Bachelor of Music degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, SUNY Purchase

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

2021: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop – Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY

2020: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Remote

2015: Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music - The Banff Center, Alberta CA

2011: School for Improvisational Music Selective Summer Intensive Program, New York, NY

2010: Master of Music Degree - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2007: Vermont Jazz Center Summer Jazz Camp, Burlington, VT

2006: Queens College Summer Jazz Program – Queens College, New York, NY

COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

2023: Amsonia & Hermes Music International Composition Contest – Finalist

2021: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Selected Participant

2021: Unsigned Only Music Competition – Semi-Finalist

2020: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Selected Participant

2019: Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works grant competition – Finalist

2017: International Songwriting Competition – Winner/Honorable Mention/Finalist

2017: International Songwriting Competition – Semi-Finalist

2016: ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award – Winner

2016: International Songwriting Competition – Semi-Finalist

TRUMPET COMPETITIONS

2021: U.S. Air Force Academy Band jazz/commercial trumpet vacancy auditions - Finalist (1 of 2 candidates)

2021: U.S. Navy Band Commodores jazz trumpet vacancy (Washington DC, Washington) – Finalist (1 of 2)

2020: GRAMMY-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra's 4th trumpet chair auditions – Finalist (1 of 3)

2009: Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition – Finalist (1 of 5)

2007: International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition – Winner

2014: Juilliard Artist Diploma program auditions – Callback (1 of 4)

GRANTS

2020: United States Artists

2020: University of Colorado Boulder Music Advisory Board

2020: Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation

2020: The Actors Fund/Local 802 Musicians Union

2020: The Jazz Foundation of America

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2020: The Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance

2020: The Recording Academy/MusiCares

COMMISSIONS

2024: Keio Light Music Society (Tokyo, Japan)

2020: International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers

RESIDENCIES

2021: Chashama chaNorth Summer Residency program (Hudson Valley, NY)

2021: Millay Colony for the Arts Core Residency (Hudson Valley, NY) – Waitlist

2021: Haleakala National Park Artist in Residence program (Maui, Hawaii) – Finalist

2019: Banff Early Fall Musicians in Residence program (Alberta, CA)

2015: Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music (Alberta, CA)

2011: School for Improvisational Music Summer Intensive Program (New York, NY)

CONFERENCES

2025: Jazz Education Network 16th Annual Conference (Atlanta, Georgia) – Selected Presenter

2020: Association for Popular Music Education conference (Edinburgh Napier University-Edinburgh, Scotland) – Selected Presenter

2020: International Society for Improvised Music conference (Melbourne Conservatorium of Music-Melbourne, Australia) – Selected Presenter

OTHER AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

2025: Recorded on GRAMMY-winning album in Best Large Jazz Ensemble category (Bianca Reimagined – Dan Pugach Big Band)

2022: Recording Academy Member Class of 2022 – Selected Member

2021: Downbeat Student Music Award (Outstanding Arrangement, Small Ensemble, Undergraduate Category) - Winner/Recipient

2020: Downbeat Student Music Award (Outstanding Performance, Latin Group, Undergraduate Category) – Winner/Recipient

NOTABLE ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS *(as a soloist unless otherwise noted) (venues in New York, NY unless otherwise noted)*

2025-Present: Damjan Pejcinoski Group – The Four Seasons Resort (Maldives)

2024: John Pizzarelli Big Band — Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (Great Barrington, MA)

2024-Present: GRAMMY-winning Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra – Dizzy’s Club

2024-Present: GRAMMY-winning Dan Pugach Big Band feat. GRAMMY-winning Nicole Zuraitis – Birdland, Jazz Loft, COTA Jazz Festival (Delaware Water Gap, PA), The Deerhead Inn (Delaware Water Gap, PA), Lake George Jazz Fest (Lake George, New York), Branford Jazz on the Green Fest (Branford, CT) *(also as lead trumpeter)*

2024-Present: Miho Hazama Jazz Orchestra (Jazz Composer’s Showcase) — The Jazz Gallery

2024: Flugelhorn solo on the 2025 GRAMMY-nominated *Bianca Reimagined* by Dan Pugach Big Band feat. Nicole Zuraitis

2024: Performances of original music by Keio Light Music Society (Tokyo, Japan)

2024: Recorded on EP featuring the United States Army Field Band and Soldier’s Chorus

2023: Bijan Mortazari & Mazyar Fallahi — Tilles Performing Arts Center (Brookville, New York)

2023: GRAMMY-winning Emilio Sola Big Band — Lake George Jazz Festival

2022: Work cited in Sammy Stein’s book, *The Wonder of Jazz* (Independent Publishing Network)

2022: Featured Performer/Composer for “Composers Now” Festival Virtual Opening Event

2022-Present: GRAMMY-winning Samuel Torres Big Band — Terazza 7, Zinc Bar

2022-Present: BMI Jazz Orchestra – Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, Symphony Space

2022-Present: HyeSong Hong Big Band — Birdland, The Jazz Loft

2023: Ben Markley Big Band feat. Ari Hoenig — Birdland Jazz Club

2023-Present: Sam Blakeslee Big Band – Shapeshifter Lab

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2022-Present: Brass Against – Southern Tours, Le Poisson Rouge,
2021: GRAMMY-winning Steven Feifke Big Band — The Django
2021-22: GRAMMY-nominated Terraza Big Band – Terraza 7
2019-Present: GRAMMY-nominated Birdland Big Band – Birdland
2019-Present: Jihye Lee Jazz Orchestra– Shapeshifter Lab, Birdland, The Jazz Gallery, The Times Center
2019-Present: GRAMMY-nominated Manuel Valera Big Band – The Django, Terraza 7
2019-Present: GRAMMY-nominated Remy Le Boeuf’s Assembly of Shadows Orchestra – The Jazz Gallery, Roulette
2019-Present: Jason Marshall Big Band - Minton's Playhouse
2019: GRAMMY-winning Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra - The Jazz Standard
2019: GRAMMY-winning Mingus Big Band - The Jazz Standard
2019-Present: GRAMMY-nominated Migiwa Miyajima Jazz Orchestra– Shapeshifter Lab
2019: David Berger Big Band – Swing 46
2018-20: GRAMMY-nominated Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society (rehearsals)
2018: Headlining artist for the 1st ever “Caribbean International Jazz Festival” – Gelee Beach (Les Cayes, Haiti)
2017: Tyshawn Sorey Group - The Met Brewer, The Stone
2016: GRAMMY-nominated Jimmy Greene Big Band - Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola
2015: Henry Cole group (rehearsal)
2015: Steve Coleman large ensemble (rehearsal)
2015: Valery Ponomarev Big Band - Zinc Bar
2015: Eco-Music Big Band (as lead trumpeter) - Carnegie Hall
2015: Erich Bergen (as lead trumpeter) - Birdland
2015: Djakout Mizik – The Barclay’s Center
2014: Josh Evans Big Band – Smalls Jazz Club
2014: GRAMMY-nominated Orrin Evans’ Captain Black Big Band - Smoke
2014: Festival of New Trumpet Music’s World premiere of 71 trumpet piece “Trumpet City” by Craig Sheppard (as ensemble player) – Brooklyn, NY
2014: U.S. National off-Broadway production of Damn Yankees (as lead trumpeter - North America
2013: GRAMMY-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra - Birdland
2013: Festival of New Trumpet Music world premiere of Henry Brant’s “Flight Over a Global Map” (as ensemble player) – ‘Roulette
2011: Blue Note Jazz Festival w/ J.C. Hopkins Biggish Band – The Highline Ballroom
2010: Zee Avi at the Anugerah Industri Muzik (AIM) awards - Putra World Tower (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

FESTIVAL APPEARANCES *(all as sideman unless otherwise noted)*

Caribbean International Jazz Festival (Haiti) – <i>As Leader</i>	Peekskill Jazz Festival (NY) – <i>As Leader</i>
COTA Jazz Festival (PA)	Rochester Jazz Festival (NY)
Lake George Jazz Festival (NY)	Albany Jazz Festival (NY)
Branford on the Green Jazz Festival (NY)	Anugerah Industri Muzik Awards (Malaysia)
The Blue Note Jazz Festival (NY)	Kompa Music Festival (FL/Paris)
Cadence Jazz Festival (NY) – <i>As Leader</i>	Festival of New Trumpet Music (NY)

ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY EMPLOYMENT *(as a trumpeter)*

2024-Present: The Band Method	2022-Present: Aragon Artists
2024-Present: Troy Curtis Entertainment	2021-Present: Chevy Chevis Entertainment
2024-Present: Jordan Kahn Music Company	2019-Present: Element Music
2024-Present: Groove Entertainment	2019-Present: 45 Riots
2022-Present: Works Entertainment	2017-Present: Elán Artists
2022-Present: Starrock Productions	2017-Present: The Eleven Band

THEATRE WORK *(as 1st/lead trumpeter; all performances took place in New York, NY unless otherwise noted)*

2022: Theaterly.com – recording session work

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2016: Drowsy Chaperone - Riverdale Rising Stars
2015: Anything Goes - AfterWork Theatre
2014: The Wild Party - New Studio on Broadway
2012: Sweet Charity - New Harlem Arts Theater
2012: Damn Yankees - Way-Off Broadway Productions (National Tour)
2011: Guys and Dolls - LaGuardia High School production, LaGuardia High School

CRUISE SHIP WORK (as a trumpeter)

2013: Princess Cruises – Island Princess (Panama Canal)

DANCE COMPANY WORK (as a trumpeter)

Limon Dance Company
Martha Graham Dance Academy
Jeffrey Ballet School

RECORDINGS AS A LEADER

2017: “Journey to a New World” (Fresh Sound Records, LLC)
2012/2015: “First Vision” (Blue Truffle Music, LLC)

RECORDINGS AS A SIDEMAN

2024: Dan Pugach Big Band *Bianca Reimagined*
2024: Marc Jazz *The Emergence*
2024: Philip Ellis Foster, *The Cosmos Project*
2024: HyeSong Hong Big Band *Things Will Pass*
2024: Julia Keefe *The Mildred Bailey Project*
2024: Sue Jin *Last Sunset*
2023: Azimuth A.D. *Mereyside*
2023: Dana Athens *Crush*
2023: Erica Seguire/Shannon Baker Jazz Orchestra
The New Day Bends Light
2022: Tony Max *Love Yourself*
2021: Real Stormin’ Norman *Euphoria*
2021: terrance peng *Bears May Try to Share Your Lunch*
2021: ConSoul *Lonestar*
2021: Craig Shepard, *Trumpet City*
2021: Alex Heffron *Looking Out*
2020: Gary Fogel Lagtet *In the Nick of Time*
2019: Gary Fogel LagTet *It is What it Is*
2017: Noah Barker *Business Actual*
2016: Eric Block *Spanish Island*
2016: Eco-Music Big Band *Rebel Spirits*
2016: The Oatmeal Jazz Combo *Instant Oats*

2016: Eco-Music Big Band *Colors of Resistance*
2016: Afro Peruvian New Trends Orquestra
Uniting Beats (Ritmos Que Unen)
2015: Ece Moisson *Gelmissin*
2014: Wynn Walent *With Friends from Here and There*
2013: Oatmeal Jazz Combo *Steel Cut Oats*
2012: Math of Trees *The Gears Below*
2012: Western Sky Music *Stations*
2012: Do La Mizik *New York Time*
2012: System Band *Se Nou'k Kon'n Fe'l*
2011: Mr. Breakdown *Shake Daddy Jupiter*
2011: Shedly Abraham *7th Step*
2012: The New York Korean Jazz Orchestra *The First Step*
2010: Avishai Darash *Helix Kiveentet*
2010: Rafrechi *Jwet La Bel Nan Min'w*
2009: Charlie Phillips *Charlie Phillips*
2009: Captain Coconut *Everybody's Business*
2008: International Trumpet Guild *The Roads They've Taken: Winners of the ITG Conference Student Jazz Improvisation Competition, 1979-2008*
2006: Doug Ratner *Surviving the City*

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE VENUES AS LEADER (all venues in New York, NY unless otherwise noted)

St. Peter’s Church
Caribbean International Jazz Festival (Les Cayes, Haiti)
Cornelia St. Café
The Douglas St. Music Collective
Seeds
Sopabox Gallery
The Bar Next Door
The Shapeshifter Lab
iBeam
Festival of New Trumpet Music
Smalls Jazz Club
Jazz at the Kitano
Culture Lab LIC
Dazzle Jazz Club (CO)
Nocturne (CO)

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The Barclays Center	Birdland
Le Poisson Rouge	Jazz at the Kitano
St. Peter's Church	Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola
The Metropolitan Museum of Art	Fat Cat
Carnegie Hall	Zinc Bar
National Arts Club	The Hotel New Yorker
Symphony Space	Mezzrow
NYU Skirball Theater	The Apollo Theater
The Stone	Smalls Jazz Club
The Cutting Room	Smoke Jazz Club
Alice Tully Hall	Fotografiska
The Jazz Gallery	The Knitting Factory
Roulette	Sullivan Hall
Joe's Pub	Chris' Jazz Club (Philadelphia PA)
Rose Hall	The Painted Bride (Philadelphia PA)
The Blue Note	Spirits (Miami, FL)
The Jazz Standard	Bicentennial Park (Miami, FL)
Rockefeller Center	Putra Indoor Stadium (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

REVIEWS

4/4 Stars *Recommended* – Jazzwise UK (Tony Hall), *Journey to a New World*, 2017
4/5 Stars – All About Jazz (Troy Dostert), *Journey to a New World*, 2017
4/5 Stars – Jazz Journal (Brian Morton), *Journey to a New World*, 2017
4.5/5 Stars — ModernJazz.gr (Imitonios) *Journey to a New World*, 2017
3.5/4 Stars - Audiophile Audition (Fritz Balwit) - *Journey to a New World*, 2017
4/4 Stars – Sea of Tranquility (Jon Neudorf), *Journey to a New World*, 2017
4/5 Stars – All About Jazz (Dan Bilawsky), *First Vision*, 2012
4/5 Stars – All About Jazz (Dan McClenaghan), *First Vision*, 2012
4/5 Stars – All About Jazz (Hrayr Attarian), *First Vision*, 2012

INTERVIEWS

Rabbit Hole Sessions (w/ Abe Ovadia) podcast	The Jazz Hole (w/ Linus Wyrsh)
Friday Night Jazz (w/ Ray Vega) - Vermont Public Radio	Hawai'i Public Radio (w/ Charles Husson)
In Frequency (w/ Ethan Helm) podcast	Public Radio International (w/ Jeff Hanley)
Debbie Burke Jazz Author (two separate blog interviews)	Pulin 4 Jazz (w/ Rich Pulin)
The Trumpet Blog (w/ Bruce Chidester)	Sunday Night Jazz (w/ Ron Jackson)
KUVO-Denver, CO (w/ Arturo Gomez/Eric Troe)	Johanna's Artbeat (w/ Johanna Griesé)

FEATURES

Composers Now (featured piece on “Sound/Visions” YouTube playlist)
We Are The Art
Talent Jungle
Fluke Productions, London

ARTICLE MENTIONS

The Berkshire Edge, January 2025	Making a Scene, August 2024
Outside In Music, Aug 2024	Downbeat Magazine, April 2020
Skope Magazine, September 2024	Downbeat Magazine, January 2021
Jazz News, August 2024	