

DR. JONATHAN SARAGA

Trumpeter | Flugelhornist | Composer | Arranger | Educator
 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

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT

2025-Present: Gray's Harbor College (Aberdine, WA) – *Trumpet Lessons*
 2016-2019: University of Colorado at Boulder (Boulder, CO) – *History of Jazz Lecturer, Jazz Combo Coach, Jazz Orchestra Director*
 2010-2011: SUNY Purchase (New York, NY) – *Departmental Assistant*
 2009-2010: Mason-Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) – *Departmental Assistant*

MASTERCLASS/CLINIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2026: University of Wyoming, UWYO Jazz Festival (Laramie, WY)
 2026: Valhalla Union Free School District, The Jazz Forum (Tarrytown, NY)
 2017-Present: New York Jazz Academy (New York, NY)
 2025: Butler School of Music, University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)
 2017: Various Schools in Costa Rica w/ the University of Colorado, Boulder Thompson Jazz Studies Program
 2015: PS 290 (New York, NY)
 2014: PS 126 (New York, NY)

INTENSIVE-PROGRAM TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

2017-Present: New York Jazz Academy (New York, NY) - *Trumpet, Theory, Jazz Combo Coach, Jazz Orchestra Director*
 2016-2017: New York Ensemble Classes (New York, NY) - *Jazz Combo Coach*

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

2019-2020: Jazz Empowers (New York, NY) – *Jazz Ensemble Director*

MIDDLESCHOOL/ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

2010-2016: Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York Summer Music Camp (New York, NY) – *Brass Ensemble Coaching, Trumpet Coaching*
 2017: Jubilee Summer Enrichment Programs (New York NY) – *General Music Classes*
 2015: Lyceum Kennedy International School (New York, NY) – *Piano Lessons, Trumpet Lessons, General Music Classes*
 2013-Present: Afro-Latin Jazz Academy of Music (New York, NY) – *Trumpet Lessons*

DEGREES

Doctor of Music Arts degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, University of Colorado, Boulder (2019)
 Master of Music degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, SUNY Purchase (2011)
 Bachelor of Music degree - Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance, SUNY Purchase (2009)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

BMI Jazz Composers Workshop – Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY (2021)
 BMI Jazz Composers Workshop – Remote (2020)
 Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music - The Banff Center, Alberta CA (2015)
 School for Improvisational Music Selective Summer Intensive Program, New York, NY (2011)
 Vermont Jazz Center Summer Jazz Camp, Burlington, VT (2007)
 Queens College Summer Jazz Program – Queens College, New York, NY (2006)

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GRAMMY®-AWARD NOMINATIONS/WINNINGS

The Dan Pugach Big Band – GRAMMY-Winning Band Member, Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album (2025)

COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

John Lennon International Songwriting Contest — Finalist (2026)
 Petrichor Records International Music Competition — Finalist (2026)
 Amsonia & Hermes Music International Composition Contest – Finalist (2023)
 BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Selected Participant (2021)
 Unsigned Only Music Competition – Semi-Finalist (2021)
 BMI Jazz Composers Workshop – Selected Participant (2020)
 Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works Grant Competition – Finalist (2019)
 International Songwriting Competition – Winner / Honorable Mention / Finalist (2017)
 International Songwriting Competition – Semi-Finalist (2017)
 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award – Winner (2016)
 International Songwriting Competition – Semi-Finalist (2016)

TRUMPET COMPETITIONS

U.S. Air Force Academy Band Jazz/Commercial Trumpet Vacancy Auditions – Finalist (*1 of 2*) (2021)
 U.S. Navy Band Commodores Jazz Trumpet Vacancy (Washington, DC) – Finalist (*1 of 2*) (2021)
 Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra's 4th Trumpet Chair Auditions – Finalist (*1 of 3*) (2020)
 Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition – Finalist (*1 of 5*) (2009)
 International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition – Winner (2007)
 Juilliard Artist Diploma Program Auditions – Callback (*1 of 4*) (2014)

GRANTS

Chamber Music America *New Jazz Works* (2026)
 United States Artists – Recipient (2020)
 University of Colorado Boulder Music Advisory Board – Recipient (2020)
 Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation – Recipient (2020)
 The Actors Fund / Local 802 Musicians Union – Recipient (2020)
 The Jazz Foundation of America – Recipient (2020)
 The Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance – Recipient (2020)
 The Recording Academy / MusiCares – Recipient (2020)

COMMISSIONS

Keio Light Music Society (Tokyo, Japan) – Commissioned Composer (2024)
 International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers – Commissioned Composer (2020)

RESIDENCIES

Cortona Sessions For New Music (Ede, Netherlands) – Resident Artist (2026)
 Chashama chaNorth Summer Residency Program (Hudson Valley, NY) – Resident Artist (2021)
 Millay Colony for the Arts Core Residency (Hudson Valley, NY) – Waitlist (2021)
 Haleakalā National Park Artist-in-Residence Program (Maui, Hawaii) – Finalist (2021)
 Banff Early Fall Musicians in Residence Program (Alberta, Canada) – Resident Artist (2019)
 Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music (Alberta, Canada) – Participant (2015)
 School for Improvisational Music Summer Intensive Program (New York, NY) – Participant (2011)

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CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Jazz Education Network 16th Annual Conference (Atlanta, Georgia) – Selected Presenter (2025)
 Association for Popular Music Education Conference (Edinburgh, Scotland) – Selected Presenter (2020)
 International Society for Improvised Music Conference (Melbourne, Australia) – Selected Presenter (2020)

OTHER AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

Jazz Composers Showcase at The Jazz Gallery (New York, NY) – Selected Composer (*1 of 3*) (2025)
 Recording Academy Member Class of 2022 – Selected Member (2022)
 Downbeat Student Music Award (Outstanding Arrangement, Small Ensemble, Undergraduate Category) – Winner / Recipient (2021)
 Downbeat Student Music Award (Outstanding Performance, Latin Group, Undergraduate Category) – Winner / Recipient (2020)

NOTABLE ENSEMBLES AS SIDEMAN *(venues in New York, NY unless otherwise noted)*

Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra	Samuel Torres Big Band
Mingus Big Band	Jihye Lee Jazz Orchestra
Steve Coleman Large Ensemble	BMI Jazz Orchestra
Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra	HyeSong Hong Big Band
Darcy James Argue's Secret Society	Ben Markley Big Band feat. Ari Hoenig
Miguel Zenon Big Band	United States Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus
Miho Hazama Jazz Orchestra	Brass Against
Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra	Djakout Mizik
John Pizzarelli Big Band	Zee Avi
Miles Davis Centennial Tribute Concert	Damjan Pejcinowski Group
Dan Pugach Big Band feat. Nicole Zuraitis	Bijan Mortazari & Mazyar Fallahi
Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band	Valery Ponomarev Big Band
Manuel Valera Big Band	David Berger Big Band
Remy Le Boeuf's Assembly of Shadows Orchestra	Migiwa Miyajima Jazz Orchestra
Jimmy Greene Big Band	Jason Marshall Big Band
Emilio Solla Big Band	Eco-Music Big Band (as lead trumpeter)
Tyshawh Sorey Group	Erich Bergen (as lead trumpeter)
Macedonian National Jazz Orchestra	Henry Cole Group
Birdland Big Band	Josh Evans Big Band
Steven Feifke Big Band	Sam Blakeslee Big Band
Terraza Big Band	J.C. Hopkins Biggish Band

OTHER NOTABLE ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

Performances of original music by Keio Light Music Society (Tokyo, Japan) (2024 & 2025)
 Work cited in *The Wonder of Jazz* by Sammy Stein (Independent Publishing Network) (2022)
 Featured Performer/Composer – Composers Now Festival Virtual Opening Event (2022)
 Headlining Artist – 1st Caribbean International Jazz Festival, Gelee Beach (Les Cayes, Haiti) (2018)
 World Premiere of *Trumpet City* by Craig Shepard (2014)
 World Premiere of *Henry Brant's Flight Over a Global Map* (2013)
 National Off-Broadway Tour of *Damn Yankees* (2014)
 Orchestral Trumpeter in *Changing Lanes* (Paramount Pictures) (2002)

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY EMPLOYMENT *(as trumpeter)*

Soul System Orchestra (2026-Present)
 Faze 4 Entertainment (2026-Present)
 Surreal Events NY (2026-Present)
 Paradigm Sounds (2026-Present)
 Generation Events Inc. (2026-Present)
 MoD Society (2026-Present)
 Hank Lane (2026-Present)
 B Sharp Musical Productions (2026-Present)
 Silver Arrow Band (2025-Present)
 NY Jukebox (2025-Present)
 Blue Avenue Group (2025-Present)
 You Pick Entertainment (2025–Present)
 Great Family Reunion (2025-Present)
 The Band Method (2024–Present)
 Troy Curtis Entertainment (2024–Present)
 Jordan Kahn Music Company (2024–Present)
 Groove Entertainment (2024–Present)
 Works Entertainment (2022–Present)
 Starrock Productions (2022–Present)
 Aragon Artists (2022–Present)
 Chevy Chevis Entertainment (2021–Present)
 Element Music (2019–Present)
 45 Riots (2019–Present)
 Elán Artists (2017–Present)
 The Eleven Band (2017–Present)

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

Theaterly.com – Recording Session Work (2022)
 Drowsy Chaperone – Riverdale Rising Stars (2016)
 Anything Goes – AfterWork Theatre (2015)

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The Wild Party – New Studio on Broadway (2014)
 Sweet Charity – New Harlem Arts Theater (2012)
 Damn Yankees – Way-Off Broadway Productions (*National Tour*) (2012)
 Guys and Dolls – LaGuardia High School Production, LaGuardia High School (2011)

CRUISE SHIP WORK (*as a trumpeter*)

Princess Cruises – Island Princess (*Panama Canal*) (2013)

DANCE COMPANY WORK (*as a trumpeter*)

Limon Dance Company
 Martha Graham Dance Academy
 Jeoffrey Ballet School

RECORDINGS AS A LEADER

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

RECORDINGS AS A SIDEMAN

Dan Pugach Big Band – *Bianca Reimagined* (2024)
 Marc Jazz – *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* (2024)
 Azimuth A.D. – *Mereyside* (2023)
 Dana Athens – *Crush* (2023)
 Erica Seguire / Shannon Baker Jazz Orchestra – *The New Day Bends Light* (2023)
 Tony Max – *Love Yourself* (2022)
 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* (2021)
 Gary Fogel Lagtet – *In the Nick of Time* (2020)
 Gary Fogel LagTet – *It Is What It Is* (2019)
 Noah Barker – *Business Actual* (2017)
 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)* (2016)
 Ece Moisson – *Gelmissin* (2015)
 Wynn Walent – *With Friends from Here and There* (2014)
 Oatmeal Jazz Combo – *Steel Cut Oats* (2013)
 Math of Trees – *The Gears Below* (2012)
 Western Sky Music – *Stations* (2012)
 Do La Mizik – *New York Time* (2012)

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System Band – *Se Nou'k Kon'n Fe'l* (2012)

The New York Korean Jazz Orchestra – *The First Step* (2012)

Mr. Breakdown – *Shake Daddy Jupiter* (2011)

Shedly Abraham – *7th Step* (2011)

Avishai Darash – *Helix Kiweentet* (2010)

Rafrechi – *Jwet La Bel Nan Min'w* (2010)

Charlie Philips – *Charlie Phillips* (2009)

Captain Coconut – *Everybody's Business* (2009)

International Trumpet Guild – *The Roads They've Taken: Winners of the ITG Conference Student Jazz Improvisation Competition, 1979–2008* (2008)

Doug Ratner – *Surviving the City* (2006)

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE VENUES AS LEADER *(all venues in New York City unless otherwise noted)*

St. Peter's Church

Monk's Jazz Club (Austin, TX)

Parker Jazz Club (Austin, TX)

Caribbean International Jazz Festival (Les Cayes, Haiti)

Cornelia St. Café

The Douglas St. Music Collective

Seeds

Sopabox Gallery

The Bar Next Door

The Kreeger Museum (Washington DC)

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)

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE VENUES AS SIDEMAN *(all venues in New York City unless otherwise noted)*

National Opera and Ballet (Skopje, Macedonia)

The Four Seasons Resort (Male, Maldives)

Martha's Vineyard (Dukes County, MA)

The Barclays Center

Le Poisson Rouge

St. Peter's Church

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Carnegie Hall

National Arts Club

Symphony Space

NYU Skirball Theater

The Stone

The Cutting Room

Alice Tully Hall

The Jazz Gallery

Roulette

Joe's Pub

Rose Hall

The Blue Note

The Jazz Standard

Rockefeller Center

Birdland

Jazz at the Kitano

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola

Fat Cat

Zinc Bar

The Hotel New Yorker

Mezzrow

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The Apollo Theater
 Smalls Jazz Club
 Smoke Jazz Club
 Fotografiska
 The Knitting Factory
 Sullivan Hall

Chris' Jazz Club (Philadelphia PA)
 The Painted Bride (Philadelphia PA)
 Bicentennial Park (Miami, FL)
 Putra Indoor Stadium (Malaysia)
 Spirits (Miami, FL)

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

FEATURES

Teache.co
 Composers Now ("Sound/Visions" YouTube playlist, IMPACT series)
 We Are The Art
 Talent Jungle
 Fluke Productions, London

ARTICLE MENTIONS

Laramie Boomerang, February 2026
 The Berkshire Edge, January 2025
 Outside In Music, Aug 2024
 Skope Magazine, Sept 2024
 Jazz News, August 2024
 Making a Scene, August 2024
 Downbeat Magazine, April 2020

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