

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*

MIDDLE SCHOOL/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

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

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

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)

CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

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

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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 ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS AS A TRUMPETER (*all as a soloist unless otherwise indicated*)

(venues in New York, NY unless otherwise noted)

Macedonian National Jazz Orchestra (Macedonia) – *Upcoming performance* (2026)
 Miguel Zenon Big Band – The Jazz Gallery – *Upcoming performance* (2025)
 Soloist on GRAMMY-winning album, Bianca Reimagined by Dan Pugach Big Band (2025)
 Damjan Pejcinoski Group – The Four Seasons Resort (Maldives) (2025)
 John Pizzarelli Big Band – Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (Great Barrington, MA) (2024)
 GRAMMY-winning Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra – Dizzy's Club (2024)
 GRAMMY-winning Dan Pugach Big Band feat. Nicole Zuraitis – Birdland, Jazz Loft, COTA Jazz Festival,
 The Deerhead Inn, Lake George Jazz Fest, Branford Jazz on the Green Fest (also as lead trumpeter) (2024–
 Present)
 Miho Hazama Jazz Orchestra (Jazz Composers Showcase) – The Jazz Gallery (2024–Present)
 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 (2024)
 Bijan Mortazari & Mazyar Fallahi – Tilles Performing Arts Center (2023)
 GRAMMY-winning Emilio Solla Big Band – Lake George Jazz Festival (2023)
 GRAMMY-winning Samuel Torres Big Band – Terraza 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 (2022–Present)
 Ben Markley Big Band feat. Ari Hoenig – Birdland Jazz Club (2023)
 Sam Blakeslee Big Band – Shapeshifter Lab (2023–Present)
 Brass Against – Southern Tours, Le Poisson Rouge (2022–Present)
 GRAMMY-winning Steven Feifke Big Band – The Django (2021)
 GRAMMY-nominated Terraza Big Band – Terraza 7 (2021–2022)
 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–Present)
 GRAMMY-winning Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra – The Jazz Standard (2019)
 GRAMMY-winning Mingus Big Band – The Jazz Standard (2019)
 GRAMMY-nominated Migiwa Miyajima Jazz Orchestra – Shapeshifter Lab (2019–Present)

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David Berger Big Band – Swing 46 (2019)
 GRAMMY-nominated Darcy James Argue's Secret Society (2018–2020)
 Tyshawn Sorey Group – The Met Brewer, The Stone (2017)
 GRAMMY-nominated Jimmy Greene Big Band – Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola (2016)
 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 Barclays Center (2015)
 Henry Cole Group (2015)
 Steve Coleman Large Ensemble (2015)
 Josh Evans Big Band – Smalls Jazz Club (2014)
 GRAMMY-nominated Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band – Smoke (2014)
 World Premiere of Trumpet City by Craig Shepard (*as ensemble player*) – Festival of New Trumpet Music – Brooklyn, NY (2014)
 National Off-Broadway Tour of Damn Yankees (*as lead trumpeter*) (2014)
 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 (2013)
 J.C. Hopkins Biggish Band – Blue Note Jazz Festival – Highline Ballroom (2011)
 Zee Avi – AIM Awards – Putra World Tower (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) (2010)

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)

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*)

Silver Arrow Band (2025-Present)
 NY Jukebox (2025-Present)

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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)
 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)

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- Erica Seguine / 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)
 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 Kweentet* (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 Shapeshifter Lab
 iBeam
 Festival of New Trumpet Music

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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)*

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

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)

Spirits (Miami, FL)

Bicentanial Park (Miami, FL)

Putra Indoor Stadium (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

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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
- 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 Wyrsch)
- 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

- 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
- Downbeat Magazine, Jan 2021