

# 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. 82<sup>nd</sup> St. Apt. 4E, New York, NY, 10028

## TEACHING/SCHOLASTIC EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August 2010 – May 2011: Departmental Assistant – Conservatory of Music @ SUNY Purchase, New York, NY

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

## 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)

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/COMMISSIONS

2020: United States Artists

2020: International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers

2020: University of Colorado Boulder Music Advisory Board

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2020: Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation

2020: The Actors Fund/Local 802 Musicians Union

2020: The Jazz Foundation of America

2020: The Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance

2020: The Recording Academy/MusiCares

## 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

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

2022: Recording Academy Member Class of 2022 – Selected Member

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

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

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

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

2024-Present: Dan Pugash Big Band – Birdland Jazz Club, Jazz Loft

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

2023: Bijan Mortazari & Mazyar Fallahi — Tilles Performing Arts Center

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

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

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

2019-23: GRAMMY-nominated Remy Le Boeuf's Assembly of Shadows Orchestra – The Jazz Gallery, Roulette

2022-23: Brass Against – Southern Tour, Le Poisson Rouge

2021: GRAMMY-winning Steven Feifke Big Band — The Django

2021-22: GRAMMY-nominated Terraza Big Band – Terraza 7

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: GRAMMY-nominated Migiwa Miyajima Jazz Orchestra– Shapeshifter Lab

2018-20: GRAMMY-nominated Darcy James Argue's Secret Society

2017: Tyshawn Sorey Group - The Met Brewer, The Stone

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2016: GRAMMY-nominated Jimmy Greene Big Band - Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola  
2015: Valery Ponomarev Big Band - Zinc Bar  
2015: Eco-Music Big Band (as lead trumpeter) - Carnegie Hall  
2015: Eric Bergen (as lead trumpeter) - Birdland  
2015: Djakout Mizik – The Barclay's Center  
2015: Henry Cole group  
2015: Steve Coleman large ensemble (as ensemble player)  
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)

## **OTHER NOTABLE ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS**

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  
2018: Headlining artist for the 1st ever Caribbean International Jazz Festival – Gelee Beach (Les Cayes, Haiti)

## **JAZZ FESTIVALS** (*all as sideman unless otherwise noted*)

Caribbean International Jazz Festival (Haiti) – *As Leader*  
The Blue Note Jazz Festival (NY)  
Cadence Jazz Festival (NY) – *As Leader*  
Peekskill Jazz Festival (NY) – *As Leader*  
Rochester Jazz Festival (NY)  
Albany Jazz Festival (NY)  
Anugerah Industri Muzik Awards (Malaysia)  
Kompa Music Festival (FL/Paris)  
Festival of New Trumpet Music (NY)

## **ENTERTAINMENT COMPANIES**

2024-Present: Trumpeter w/ Groove Entertainment  
2022-Present: Trumpeter w/ Works Entertainment  
2022-Present: Trumpeter w/ Starrock Productions  
2022-Present: Trumpeter w/ Aragon Artists  
2021-Present: Trumpeter w/ Chevy Chevis Entertainment  
2019-Present: Trumpeter w/ Element Music  
2019-Present: Trumpeter w/ 45 Riots  
2017-Present: Trumpeter w/ Elán Artists  
2017-Present: Trumpeter w/ The Eleven Band

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

2022: Theaterly.com – recording session work  
2016: Drowsy Chaperone - Riverdale Rising Stars  
2015: Anything Goes - AfterWork Theatre  
2014: The Wild Party - New Studio on Broadway

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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)

## **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: HyeSong Hong Big Band *TBA*

2024: Julia Keefe *The Mildred Bailey Project*

2024: Sue Jin *Last Sunset*

2023: Azimuth A.D. *Mereyside*

2023: Dana Athens *Crush*

2023: Erica Seguine/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 Kiweentet*

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 City 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)

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

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

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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)  
Bicentennial Park (Miami, FL)  
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

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

Composers Now (featured piece on their "Sound/Visions" YouTube playlist)

We Are The Art

Talent Jungle

Fluke Productions, London

## ARTICLE MENTIONS

Downbeat Magazine, April 2020

Downbeat Magazine, Jan 2021