

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

2017-Present: New York Jazz Academy, New York, NY

(10 months/once a week/2-4 hours per week)

- Instructor of all-age big-band jazz ensembles, small-group jazz ensembles, trumpet students and masterclasses ranging from 9-16 students
- Assisted students in understanding, internalizing and executing specific elements of jazz phrasing, style, articulation, and time feel
- Educated students on approaches to improvisation by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Molded rehearsals around the specific needs and interests of students to maximize engagement, while incorporating foundational/level-appropriate big-band repertoire
- Provided original lesson plans, games, assignments, feedback, and mentoring

2019-2020: Jazz Empowers, New York, NY

(9 months/twice a week/2 hours per week)

- Instructor of middle/high school small-group jazz ensembles ranging from 1 to 8 students
- Taught students with no musical experience how to read music, improvise and play their instruments, which included trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, guitar, electric bass, drums and piano
- Educated students on the foundational components of jazz by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Molded lessons around the specific needs and interests of students to maximize engagement, while adhering to the curriculum provided by Jazz Empowers
- Provided original lesson plans, games, assignments, feedback, and mentoring
- Designed and taught a 1-week online jazz history course via Zoom
- Lead in communications with school administrative staff

2016-2019: Thompson Jazz Studies @ University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO

(12 months/5 days a week/4-8 hours per week)

- Lecturer for 100+ student non-major undergraduate History of Jazz class
- Instructor/conductor of 17-piece non-major big-band jazz ensembles (8 months/twice a week/1 hour)
- Instructor of major and non-major Jazz Combo ensembles ranging from 5-8 students (8 months/once a week/2 hours)
- Usage of online course management systems (Canvas, D2L)
- Program/course budget management
- Syllabi, Powerpoint presentation, exam, quiz, and assignment creation
- Mentorship and coaching of undergraduate students

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- Oversight of Teaching Assistants
- Headed efforts in library cataloging and social media/email communications
- Ambassador for Thompson Jazz Studies program via ceremonies/special events

2016: New York Ensemble Classes, New York, NY

(3 months/once a week/2 hours per week)

- Instructor of small-group jazz ensembles ranging from 5-7 students
- Assisted students in understanding, internalizing and executing specific elements of jazz phrasing, style, articulation, and time feel
- Educated students on approaches to improvisation by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Molded rehearsals around the specific needs and interests of students to maximize engagement, while incorporating foundational/level-appropriate big-band repertoire
- Provided original lesson plans, games, assignments, feedback, and mentoring

2013-2020: Afro-Latin Jazz Academy of Music, New York, NY

(6 months/twice a week/2-4 hours per week)

- Instructor of small-group middle/high school Latin-jazz ensembles ranging from 1 to 12 students
- Substitute teacher of group trumpet lessons ranging from 1 to 8 students (occasionally over 9 months per year/2 hours)
- Taught students with little to no musical experience how to improvise and play their instruments, which included trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, guitar, electric bass, drums and piano
- Educated students on the foundational components of Latin-jazz by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Molded lessons around the specific needs and interests of students to maximize engagement, while adhering to the curriculum provided by ALJA.
- Provided original lesson plans, games, assignments, feedback, and mentoring

2010-2016: Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York, New York, NY

(6 weeks/1-3 hours per week)

- Taught individual and groups of middle/high school brass students ranging from 5 to 10 students
- Educated students on the foundational components of brass playing and stylistic components of music by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously

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2017: Jubilee Summer Enrichment Program, New York NY

(6 weeks/1 hour per week)

- Taught individual piano students from K-7th grades
- Taught singing to groups of up to 20 kids ranging from K-7th grades
- Created a two-month curriculum/program of music, which included selection, acquisition, organization and distribution of choral sheet music for 8 age groups (K-7th grade)
- Educated students on the foundational components of singing and stylistic components of music by means of demonstration, listening and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Lead in communications with school administrative staff and parents

2015: Lyceum Kennedy International School, New York, NY

(7 months/4 hours per week)

- Taught individual piano, keyboard and trumpet students from K-7th grades
- Taught group music appreciation classes to students from K-7th grades
- Educated students on the foundational components of music by means of demonstration, listening, watching and group play
- Assisted students with required material both in group and private settings, which sometimes occurred simultaneously
- Provided original lesson plans, games, assignments, feedback, and mentoring
- Activities and lessons included musicology, singing, dancing, hand percussion, auxiliary percussion, instrument care, recording, songwriting, multi-instrumental playing, music audio and video analysis, as well as various music inspired games created by himself and by the students.
- Lead in communications with school administrative staff and parents

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

(6 months/5 hours per week)

- Office and library sheet music cataloging
- Concert program creation

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

(6 months/5 hours per week)

- Equipment set-up and break-down in both ensemble rehearsal and performance situations
- Monitoring and maintenance of keyboard and computer lab

DEGREES

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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

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

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

2022: Recording Academy Member Class of 2022 – Selected Member

2021: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Selected Participant

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

2021: Unsigned Only Music Competition – Semi-Finalist

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

2021: Millay Colony for the Arts Core Residency – Waitlist

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

2021: Downbeat Student Music Award (Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements, Small Ensemble) – Winner/Recipient

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

2020/22: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop - Selected Participant

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

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

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

2016-19: Full Scholarship w/ Paid Assistantship/Instructorship for Doctor of Musical Arts Degree (University of Colorado, Boulder)

2016: ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award – Winner/Recipient

2016: International Songwriting Competition – Semi-Finalist

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

2007: International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition – Winner

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GRANTS/COMMISSIONS

2020: United States Artists

2020: International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers

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

2020: The Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance

2020: The Recording Academy/MusiCares

RESIDENCIES

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

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)

NOTABLE ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS *(all based in New York City unless otherwise noted)*

2022-23: Trumpeter w/ BMI Jazz Orchestra: BMI Jazz Composers Workshop's Annual Summer Showcase – Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Symphony Space

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

2023: Trumpeter w/ Gorilla Biscuits — White Eagle Hall

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

2022-23: Trumpeter w/ HyeSong Hong Big Band — Birdland, The Jazz Loft

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

2019-2023: Trumpeter w/ Birdland Big Band – Birdland

2019-23: Trumpeter w/ Jihye Lee Jazz Orchestra– Shapeshifter Lab, Birdland, The Jazz Gallery, The Times Center

2019-22: Trumpeter w/ Manuel Valera Big Band – The Django, Terraza 7

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

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

2022-23: Trumpeter w/ Brass Against – Southern Tour Dates, Le Poisson Rouge

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

2021: Trumpeter w/ Steven Feifke Big Band — The Django

2021-22: Trumpeter w/ GRAMMY-nominated Terraza Big Band – Terraza 7

2019-20: Trumpeter w/ Jason Marshall Big Band - Minton's Playhouse

2019: Trumpeter w/ GRAMMY-winning Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra - The Jazz Standard

2019: Trumpeter w/ GRAMMY-winning Mingus Big Band - The Jazz Standard

2019: Trumpeter w/ Migiwa Miyajima Jazz Orchestra– Shapeshifter Lab

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

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

2017: Trumpeter w/ MacArthur Fellow Tyshawn Sorey Group - The Met Brewer, The Stone

2017: Release of 2nd album as leader, *Journey to a New World* (Fresh Sound New Talent)

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2016: Soloist in world premiere of GRAMMY-nominated Jimmy Greene Big Band - Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola
2015: Trumpeter w/ the Valery Ponomarev Big Band - Zinc Bar
2015: Lead Trumpeter w/ Eco-Music Big Band - Carnegie Hall
2015: Trumpeter w/ Eric Bergen - Birdland
2015: Trumpeter w/ Djakout Mizik – The Barclay's Center
2015: Trumpeter w/ Henry Cole group
2015: Trumpeter w/ Steve Coleman large ensemble
2014: Trumpeter w/ Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band - Smoke
2014: Callback for the Juilliard Artist Diploma program auditions
2014: Trumpeter in world premiere of 71 trumpet piece "Trumpet City" by Craig Sheppard
2014: Lead Trumpeter in U.S. National off-Broadway production of Damn Yankees (North America)
2013: Trumpeter w/ the GRAMMY-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra - Birdland
2013: Trumpeter on Island Princess for Princess Cruises (Panama Canal)
2013: Festival of New Trumpet Music world premiere of Henry Brant's "Flight Over a Global Map" – 'Roulette
2012: Release of debut album as a leader First Vision (Blue Truffle Music LLC)
2011: Trumpeter at the Blue Note Jazz Festival w/ J.C. Hopkins Biggish Band – The Highline Ballroom
2010: Trumpeter with Zee Ave at the Anugerah Industri Muzik (AIM) awards - Putra World Tower (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

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)

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

2023: HyeSong Hong Big Band *TBA*
2023: Julia Keefe *TBA*
2023: Azimuth A.D. *Mereyside*
2023: Dana Athens *Crush*
2023: Erica Seguire/Shannon Baker Jazz Orchestra *The New Day Bends Light*

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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 City unless otherwise noted)

St. Peter's Church
Caribbean International Jazz Festival (Les Cayes, Haiti)
Cornelia St. Cafe
The Douglas St. Music Collective
Seeds
The Bar Next Door
The Shapeshifter Lab
iBeam
Festival of New Trumpet Music
Smalls Jazz Club

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Jazz at the Kitano
Culture Lab LIC
Dazzle Jazz Club (CO)
Nocturne (CO)

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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)
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
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)
KUVU-Denver, CO (w/ Arturo Gomez/Eric Troe)
The Jazz Hole (w/ Linus Wyrsh)

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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

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL *(as a trumpeter)*

2023-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 1st/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
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