

STRATØS
CURRICULUM VITAE
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Education

Master of Music in Music Performance (April, 2020)
Western Michigan University School of Music (3.88 GPA)

Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies (April, 2018)
Western Michigan University School of Music (3.7 GPA)

Saxophone Teachers

Jack Wagner (2013), Dr. Andrew Rathbun (2014-2020)

Composition Teachers

Dr. Andrew Rathbun (2014-2020), Dr. David Colson (2018-2019)

Significant Additional Saxophone, Composition, & Music Production Studies

Vijay Iyer, Tyshawn Sorey, Edward Simon (composition), Donny McCaslin, John Hébert, Tivon Pennicott, George Garzone, Rich Perry, Ingrid Jensen, Matana Roberts, Steve Lehman (saxophone), Dr. Carter Rice, John Emmanuel Campos (audio engineering & music production).

Professional Experience

As a Composer/Producer

- Released [*Planets*](#), an independent debut LP featuring the likes of David Binney and John Hébert in October 2021. *Planets* was featured in the Museum of Modern Art's "MoMA Mixtape series" for its track "Venus" in 2024.
- Featured in [*Chamber Music America's*](#) 2022 winter issue preceding the release of sophomore LP *Hohenheim Suites*
- Released [*Hohenheim Suites*](#), an independent jazz-chamber hybrid LP featuring the likes of John Hébert and JACK Quartet. *Hohenheim Suites* won ASCAP's Herb Albert Young Jazz Composer Award & Johnny Mandel Prize for its track "[*I. Gate's Opening*](#)" in 2021.
- Owner and operator of independent, boutique recording and mixing studio "[*The Stratosphere*](#)" where woodwinds, Rhodes and synthesizers for "[*Right Away \(Feat. Stratos\)*](#)" were engineered. Operating since May 2023.
- Robust work in film, tv & video games with placements in [*Anyone But You*](#) Starring Sydney Sweeney (composed, arranged, and produced all woodwinds in "Lancaster Nights"), ABC's 6-

time Emmy winning series *Abbott Elementary* (made an appearance in season 2 episode 20), and Sony's NBA 2K25 (co-produced and co-engineered the track "*Right Away (Feat. Stratos)*") official in-game soundtrack roster.

- Completed *Challenger Deep*, a ten-movement work written for electronic chamber orchestra that synthesizes the heavily emphasized audio production elements of *Planets* with the more compositional, thematic aesthetics of *Hohenheim Suites* to create something wholly new. *Challenger Deep* investigates deeper issues modern society faces through the lens of my late grandfather Edward Codrington. Codrington was a fisherman from Barbados in the early 20th century. His unique status as a master of his craft with a rare motorized vessel gave him access to waters that other fishermen couldn't venture into. In the vein of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*, this motif was used to tell a story where Codrington descends from the surface of the sea all the way down to the "Challenger Deep," the lowest part of Earth's deepest ocean, the Mariana Trench. His journey will be the catalyst to explore themes ranging from the effects of climate change, the ever-mysterious contents of Earth's oceans, to the fates of enslaved African people whose bodies never made it to the Americas and beyond.

As a Saxophonist/Performer

- Has performed, produced for or worked with notable artists such as Chloe & Halle Bailey, Imagine Dragons, The War & Treaty (supporting The Rolling Stones), David Binney, Rachel Ekruth, John Hébert, Melanie Charles, JACK Quartet, Telemakus, and more.
- Presented "*Sweet Lorraine*," a one-man show with live saxophone scoring by writer, producer, and comedian *Jordan Temple* (*Abbott Elementary*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, FX's *Atlanta*) at the 2023 NYC Comedy Festival.
- Recruited as an endorsed artist for *D'addario* and *Key leaves* in 2023.

As a Photographer/Cinematographer

- 5 years of photographic and cinematographic work with artists such as Aloe Blacc, Rachel Ekruth, Alex Hahn, The Kalamazoo Music School (lead mixing engineer and videographer), and a *feature from Kodak* in 2022.

Teaching Experience

Appointed as Assistant Teaching Professor of Composition (CU Boulder)

- hired as a full time Assistant Teaching Professor of Composition at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2025. Responsibilities include fieldwork and research, small jazz ensemble coach, leading a studio of 6 composers weekly, and course development/instruction of the Topics in Music Technology (Making an Electronic EP) and Instrumentation and Arranging Courses.

As the Graduate Assistant Private Saxophone Instructor (WMU)

- Instructed a private studio of 7-10 undergraduate saxophonists during graduate program from 2018-2020. Responsibilities included developing a guided, tailored lesson plan for each student with the focus of developing skills in improvisation, jazz harmony, and music theory.

Appointed as Director of the University Jazz Lab Band (WMU)

- From 2019-2020, responsibilities included programming 2 concerts per year while leading weekly ensemble rehearsals focused on building individual and collective vocabulary reflective of canonical Black American big band works from composers such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Dizzy Gillespie and more.

As a Lead Ensemble Coach / Private Instructor (Kalamazoo Music School)

- From 2018-2020, Responsibilities included weekly private woodwind instruction for a 5-student studio, and weekly ensemble coaching for student jazz ensembles with a focus on improvisation and composition.

As a traveling artist in residence (Centro Colombo Americano)

- Served as artist in residence in Colombia, South America for the *Centro Colombo Americano* jazz education program in 2019. Responsibilities included a month of masterclasses, private instruction, performances, and ensemble coaching focused on strengthening collective jazz improvisation, understanding of jazz harmony and canonical repertoire.

As an independent, private woodwind instructor (Rhodes Music School)

- Private and group woodwind (saxophone, flute, clarinet) instruction for students grades 5 to post-graduate at Rhodes School of Music in Los Angeles, California since March 2024. Focus is on fostering basic woodwind and music theory skills for students at the beginner level.

Composition Experience

- Extensive experience composing & arranging for large and small ensembles throughout undergraduate & graduate programs from 2015-2020 such as the Western Michigan University Advanced Jazz ensemble directed by Dr. Andrew Rathbun. Responsibilities in this ensemble included programming several concerts per year made entirely of original works from each ensemble member. Regular collaborations with different departments of the college such as visual arts and dance were expected, resulting in many multi-disciplinary projects that involved original composition. For example, a 2015 collaboration with the visual arts department saw a climate change themed presentation of live-action footage projected onto a large, hand-assembled structure while the ensemble's original works were performed alongside it.
- Among collaborations within the Western Michigan University Advanced Jazz Ensemble, the collaboration with new music and electronic composer Dr. Christopher Biggs yielded "Obsidian Galaxy," a work written for Nonet and live electronic audio processing that won the [Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award](#) in 2019.

- “[*The Archangel Suite*](#)” was a 4-movement multi-disciplinary work written for electronic jazz ensemble and live visual projections that premiered in Kalamazoo, Michigan in March 2019. Independently produced, the work was written in collaboration with visual artist Peter Warner and features a narrative driven presentation of the composer’s interpretation of the four most common Archangels that appear in various sacred texts.
- Was named a winner of [*National Sawdust’s 2020 New Works Commission Contest*](#) which included a commission to write for the world renowned JACK Quartet. The commissioned piece “[*III. Gate’s Closing*](#)” premiered [*live at National Sawdust*](#) in 2020, and is featured as the 6th track in *Hohenheim Suites*.
- Commissioned by percussionist [*Parker Fadoul*](#) and head of percussion studies at Boston Conservatory at Berklee (as well as percussion faculty at Berklee College of Music) [*Nancy Zeltsman*](#) to write a chamber piece for marimba and MalletStation as a part of an initiative to create more repertoire for the relatively new aforementioned MIDI controller instrument. “Melding” was completed in 2020 with a premiere to be announced in the coming months.

Creative Activity and Research

- Was selected to attend [*Banff Center of the Arts’ Jazz and Creative Music*](#) seminar for the month of June, 2019. Lead by directors Vijay Iyer and Tyshawn Sorey, attendees were given the opportunity to compose and perform in 3 different ensembles while receiving instruction from world renowned visiting musicians such as Mimi Jones, Ingrid Jensen, Steve Lehman, Matana Roberts, and more during the seminar. Attendees were granted full access to the musical resources provided by the facility, and were encouraged to use these resources for personal documentation or distribution.
- Premiered [*Planets*](#) live with electronics in New York in 2021
- Developed “Space Jazz,” an electronic chamber jazz ensemble that focuses on pushing the limits of instrumental performance. 2023-2025 Herbie Hancock Institute member [*Yakiv Tsvetinskyi*](#) plays the role of pianist, synth bassist, and trumpeter in this ensemble *simultaneously*. EWI 4000s and tenor saxophone are used to play the role of solo monophonic instrument and bass synth interchangeably, while 2023-2025 Herbie Hancock Institute member [*Ebs Daramola*](#) plays the role of drummer. The ensemble investigates all of the timbral and orchestrational possibilities with this extremely unique instrumentation.
- Developed a collection of music for electronic jazz quintet focused heavily on counterpoint and orchestration. The music of *Challenger Deep* though meant to push the boundaries of music production, orchestration and sound design, all of the music is compatible with the more traditional instrumentation of a “jazz quintet” for further live exploration.

Discography

As a Leader

- Planets - 2021
- Hohenheim Suites - 2022
- “Dead Calm” (Single) - 2024 (first release from *Challenger Deep*)

As a Sideman

- “Intentions” - Charlie Burg (2017)
- “Lancaster Nights” - Charlie Burg (2020)
- “Rubber Band Man (feat. YACO & Stratøs)” - Gengis Don (2022)
- “Gingerale Pancakes (feat. Stratøs)” - Declan Sheehy-Moss (2023)
- OVERWORKED, UNDERPAID! - donSMITH (2024)
- “BETTER DAYZ” - Zacchae’us Paul (2024)

Honors and Awards

2018: Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award honorable mention for “Atlantic Exodus” - (ASCAP)

2019: Won the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award for “Obsidian Galaxy” - (ASCAP)

2020: Won the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award for “Nexus” - (ASCAP)

2020: Won the National Sawdust New Works Commission Contest

2020: Won the Johnny Mandel Prize for “Nexus” - (ASCAP)

2021: Won the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award for “I. Gate’s Opening” - (ASCAP)