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## JOHN GUNTHER

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As a jazz saxophonist and composer Dr. Gunther's expertise lies in mastering and communicating the range of jazz styles that have developed over the last century. As the art of improvisation is central to the study of jazz, Dr. Gunther is interested in developing the pedagogy of improvisation through a deeper understanding of the creative process and expanding that study to other styles of music and disciplines beyond music. Additionally, his research explores the integration of technology and multi-media with live performance allowing for collaboration between a wide array of disciplines. This research includes the formation of the Boulder Laptop Orchestra in 2007.

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D. (Music Performance and Composition for Performers):** The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; New York University, New York City, NY 2008

**MM. (Jazz Studies):** Frost School of Music, University of Miami, Miami, FL 1991

**BM. (Saxophone Performance):** Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA 1989

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**University of Colorado, Boulder:**

Director of Jazz Studies, 2013 – present  
Associate Professor, Jazz Studies, 2012 – present;  
Assistant Professor, Jazz Studies, 2005-12

**The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; New York University:**

Assistant to Director of Jazz Studies, 2002-2004  
Instructor, Saxophone and Improvisation, 1997 - 2002

**Hebrew Academy for Special Children, Brooklyn, NY:**

Music Instructor, 2002 - 2003

**Brooklyn Preparatory Center, Brooklyn College, NY:**

Private instructor, Saxophone, Music Theory, 1994 - 1996

**Frost School of Music, University of Miami:**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Saxophone and Jazz Theory, 1990 - 1991

## SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Commercially Distributed Recordings

*"Offscreen Pursuits"* Adam Bodine (AdamBodine music) 2023  
*"Flowers of Evil"* Annie Booth (Anniebooth music) 2023  
*"Ari's Funhouse"* Ben Markley Big Band (Oregon) 2022  
*"Alpenglow"* Annie Booth Sextet (Anniebooth music) 2022  
*"Vibes on a Breath"* Ted Piltzecker (Origin) 2022  
*"Nkwa Na Ehia," Paa Kow Afrofusion Orchestra* 2021  
*If There are Mountains,* Elan Melher/Dave Douglas Sextet (Newvelle Records) 2020  
*Throw Down or Shut Up* (Bandcamp) 2020  
*East and West,* New West Quartet (Fresh Sounds) 2019  
*Infinity – Choral Works,* Arnesen/Rinsema, (Naxos) 2018  
*Trickster Tales,* John Gunther & the Carpe Diem String Quartet (Turnworld) 2017  
*Devotion,* John Gunther's Safari Trio (Turnworld) 2017  
*Be (bop) Boulder,* Thompson Jazz Studies Faculty (Bandcamp) 2015  
*Paa Kow's By All Means Band – "Ask"* 2014  
*Teresa Carroll, Live at Dazzle* (CIMP) 2014  
*Low Lonesome,* Greg Garrison (SR) 2011  
*Hold On,* Fred Hess Big Band (Dazzle) 2010  
*Surrender,* John Gunther's Safari Trio (Muse-Eek) 2009  
*Songs of the Nation Vol. 2* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2008  
*I Can Be There* Convergence (Capri) 2007  
*Five Piano Pieces, Op.23, Arnold Schonberg* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2006  
*Soul Advice,* John Menegon featuring Dewey Redman (Maki) 2006  
*In this World,* The John Gunther Trio (CIMP) 2005  
*Quartet for the End of Time, Messiaen* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2005  
*DVD Spooky Actions Live in Moscow,* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2005  
*Songs of the Nations,* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2004  
*Early Music,* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2004  
*Modern Man,* Convergence (Capri) 2004  
*The Music of Webern,* Spooky Actions (Muse-Eek) 2003  
*Hometown,* Convergence (Capri) 2002  
*Gone Fishin'* John Gunther and "Axis Mundi" (CIMP) 2001  
*Above Now Below,* John Gunther and "Axis Mundi" (CIMP) 1999  
*As One,* Convergence (Synergy) 1998  
*Healing Song* John Gunther and "Axis Mundi" (CIMP) 1998  
*Permission Granted,* The John Gunther Trio (CIMP) 1997  
*Big Lunage,* John Gunther/Greg Gisbert Quintet (Capri) 1994

#### Selected Works – Composition

"Bach Loops" For solo saxophone and live video. (2021)  
 "Rumi Settings" 11-part song cycle based on the poetry of Rumi. (2017)  
 "Hero's Journey" for chamber group "Throw down or shut up." (2017)  
 "Anansi and the Sky God" for saxophone and String Quartet (2016)

Commissioned by the “Carpe Diem String Quartet”  
 Works of Thelonious Monk arranged for saxophone and String Quartet (2016)  
 Commissioned by the “Carpe Diem String Quartet”  
 “Threads” for Piano and woodwinds. Premiered with Art Lande (2016)  
 “What Are You Gonna Leave When You Leave Here” for solo violin and electronics. (2014)  
 Additional compositions include over 50 original songs for small jazz ensemble.

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

### International – guest performer or featured artist

Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (2023)  
 “Bull’s Head Jazz Club” London, England (2022)  
 “Paakow Music Festival” Accra, Ghana (2022)  
 “Hot Club Portugal” Lisbon, Portugal (2022)  
 “The Kontesa” Zagreb, Croatia (2019)  
 “Jazz Club Bacchus” Zagreb, Croatia. (2019)  
 “Café Vinilo” Buenos Aires, Argentina (2019)  
 “Vuela El Pez” Buenos Aires, Argentina (2019)  
 “Jasz Café” La Plata, Argentina (2019)  
 “Philly Joe’s” jazz Club, Tallinn, Estonia (2018)  
 “Ronny Scott’s” jazz club “James Taylor Quartet” London, England (2018)  
 Coda Music Center, Casablanca, Morocco (2017)  
 “Duetos da Sé” jazz club, Lisbon, Portugal (2016)  
 “Take Five” jazz club, Bologna, Italy (2016)  
 Anfiteatro Municipal de Cartago, Costa Rica. Featured soloist performing “Concerto for Soprano  
 Saxophone” by John Mackey (2016)  
 “JazzDock” and “Reduta Jazz Club,” Prague, Czechoslovakia. (2015)  
 “Hot Club Portugal” Lisbon, Portugal (2015)  
 Debrecen Jazz Club, Debrecen, Hungary (2015)  
 Szekesfehervar Concert Hall in Szekesfehervar, Hungary (2015)  
 Royal Academy of Music, London. (2013, 2014)  
 “Jazz en Vercors” Music Festival; Vercors, France. (2009, 2010, 2011)  
 Guest performer at the Trondertun Folk High School; Melhus, Norway. (2010)  
 Performance at the International Association of Schools of Jazz Conference; Corfu, Greece. (2010)  
 “Birmingham Symphony Hall” foyer concert series; Birmingham, England. (2010)  
 “Ijam” International Jazz Camp & Festival; Bonefro, Italy. (2008)  
 Dom International “Alternativ” Music Festival with the group “Spooky Actions”; Moscow, Russia. (2005,  
 2006)  
 “Distillery Jazz Festival” as featured artist; Toronto, Canada (2006)  
 Three European tours with the Woody Herman Orchestra; Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Spain, England,  
 Wales, Finland, France. (1990 - 2000)

## National

IRCAM @ NYU Electronic Music Festival, New York City (2022)  
 Constellation, Dave Douglas/Elan Mehler Sextet, Chicago (2022)  
 Solar Myth, Dave Douglas/Elan Mehler Sextet, Philadelphia (2022)  
 Aspen, Colorado. Guest soloist performing with Aspen Chamber Symphony (2021)  
 Turtle Bay School, New York City. "Elan Mehler/Dave Douglas Quintet" (2019)  
 "Scullers" jazz club, Boston. "Elan Mehler/Dave Douglas Quintet" (2019)  
 Midland Odessa Symphony – Guest soloist performing Getz/Sauter "Focus" (2017)  
 Member of "Dizzy Gillespie All Stars" UNC Jazz Festival (2017)  
 Guest artist with the Brigham Young University student jazz ensemble. (2016)  
 Performed in the "Midtown Manhattan" Jazz Festival, New York City. (2015)  
 "Five Points Jazz Festival" leading my group "Safari Trio" Denver. (2015)  
 Performed with the Dave Douglas Quintet. "Dazzle Jazz Club" Denver. (2015)  
 Performed with Convergence and Roberta Gambarini at the Telluride Jazz Festival. (2012)  
 Featured artist on the National Public Radio nationally syndicated show "Jazz Set" hosted by Dee Dee Bridgewater (as part of the jazz group "Convergence"). This weekly show is broadcast to over 300 radio stations throughout the U.S. as well as streamed on the internet world wide. (2008)  
 Performed on National Public Radio "Toast of the Nation" – A New Year's Eve Broadcast with an estimated listening audience of 500,000. Featured performer with the jazz sextet "Convergence." (2007)  
 Featured performer at "Blues Alley"; Washington DC. (2005)  
 Maria Schneider Orchestra – various performances at "Visiones," New York City (1990's)  
 Toshiko Akiyoshi Orchestra - "Birdland" New York City, New York. (1996)  
 Village Vanguard Orchestra – Village Vanguard, New York City, New York. (1997)  
 Woody Herman Orchestra - U.S, Canadian, and European tours. (1991-2008)  
 Carnegie Hall with the Woody Herman Orchestra 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert; New York City, New York. (1996)  
 Performed on the following Broadway Shows, New York City: (2000-2005)  
*Chicago, Hairspray, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Movin' Out, Brooklyn, The Life, State Fair, Crazy for You.*

## PERFORMANCE AND RESEARCH IN TECHNOLOGY

Atlas 40.4 featured artist (2022)  
 Atlas B2 Artist Residency (2021)  
 Established the Boulder Laptop Orchestra (BLOrk) and the "Electronic Music Ensemble" as course offering at the College of Music. (2008 to present).  
 Presented performance integrating live electro-acoustic music with surround sound and full dome multimedia with BLOrk in Fiske Planetarium, UC Boulder. (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)  
 Presented annual Fall Performances of BLOrk in Atlas Black Box. (2011 - present).  
 Presented 3-day Technology Festival in the Atlas Black Box theatre. (2010)  
 Presented BLOrk in a performance at the ISIM (International Society for Improvised Music) Conference. (2008)  
 Presented Multimedia Collaboration and Interactive Internet Distributed Performance. Performers at New York University and Bergen Community College (NJ) interacted in real time with University of Colorado faculty and students in Boulder. (2008)

## Selected Reviews

*If There are Mountains*, Making A Scene. Jim Hynes reviewer. (2020)  
*If There are Mountains*, The Arts Fuse. Michael Ullman reviewer (2020)  
 New West Quartet, Flophouse Magazine (2019)  
 New West Quartet, Jazz Journal (2019)  
 East & West, Jazz Profiles (2019)  
 New West Quartet, Jazz.pt (2019)  
*Live Performance*, Jazz FM, BBC. Helen Mayhew. (2010)  
*In This World* in the online journal AllAboutJazz.com. Jeff Stockton, Derek Taylor, reviewers. (2005)  
*In This World* in the online music journal “One Final Note.” Jay Collins, reviewer. (2005)  
*Gone Fishin* in the online music journal “One Final Note.” Joe Milazzo, reviewer. (2001)

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught

Jazz History & Literature, Jazz History, Jazz Studies Administration & Pedagogy, Jazz Studies Practicum, Electronic Music Ensemble, Jazz Arranging I, Jazz Arranging II, Jazz Improvisation I, Concert Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble II, Jazz Combo, Jazz Theory/Aural Foundations, Contemporary Jazz Theory, Jazz Improv & Analysis, Undergraduate and Graduate Jazz Saxophone Performance.

### Selected International Master class teaching and lectures

Jazz Improvisation, National University of Costa Rica, San Jose (2023)  
 Saxophone Masterclass, Accra Ghana (2022)  
 Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa, Portugal. (2022)  
 Instituto Terciario *Tamaba* - Escuela de Música y Sonido en Argentina. (2019)  
 Royal Academy of Music, London. (2010, 2013, 2018, 2020)  
 Mahidol University, Thailand. (2017)  
 Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa, Portugal. (2015)  
 Kodolanyi Jazz Tanszeken, Hungary. (2015)  
 Fryderyka Chopina Wydział Jazzu oraz Policealne Studium Jazzu, Poland. (2015)  
 Vercors Jazz Festival, France. “The Great Tenor Sax Soloists in Jazz” (2011)  
 Residency at Trondertun Folkehogskole, Norway. Master classes and rehearsal/performance with students. (2010)  
 Guildhall School of Music, London. (2010)  
 Presented lecture/paper at the International Association of Schools of Jazz, Corfu, Greece. “Improvising With Tones – Connecting Jazz Improvisation and Serial Music” (2010)  
 Presented at the International Conference on Music Performance Analysis in Lucerne, Switzerland.  
*Transmigrations of “Body and Soul”*: Three Contemporary Interpretations of a Jazz Classic. (2009)

### Selected Collaborations

Dr. Lakshmi Sreeram – Studies in improvisation in jazz and classical Indian musical traditions 2020.  
 John Gunther - CV

- “Gnawa of Hope” – Collaboration with Gnawa musician Fourat Koyo. Travel and research in Morocco in 2019 and recording/video of traditional Gnawa music in 2020.
- “New West Quartet” – Collaboration with European jazz musicians based in Lisbon, Portugal. 2019 Recording *East & West* produced in 2019.
- Carpe Diem String Quartet – Composition and recording of traditional West-African musical forms arranged for saxophone and string quartet. Concerts and recording *Trickster Tales* produced in 2017.

## **Awards and Grants**

### Selected University of Colorado Grants

- College of Music Bixler Faculty Grant
- GCA Faculty Projects Grant – *Gnawa, Jazz, and the Power of Musical Connection* (2018)
- GCAH Grant - *Anansi and the Sky God – An African Tale* - Support for the professional recording of a new work for string quartet and saxophone soloist. (2016)
- GCAH Grant - *Jazz Meets the Music of the Balkans and the Middle East, Artist Residency and Recording of New Works for Small Jazz Ensemble*” (2012)
- PRESIDENT’S FUND FOR THE HUMANITIES – Spring mini grant support for performance. *American Improvised Music: At the crossroads of Jazz, Folk, and Country music* (2011)
- PRESIDENT’S FUND FOR THE HUMANITIES - *Musical Entanglement: Jazz, Classical and Native-American Music in Traditional and Non-Traditional Contexts* (2006)
- Pathways to Jazz Recording grant (2023)
- Fulbright-Nehru Award - declined (2022)
- Fulbright Roster Candidate 2014
- Artist profile in *The New Face of Jazz*. Cicily Janus, Random House. (2010)
- Composer in residence, “Fringe” International Dance Festival; Toronto, Canada. (2005)
- Featured in *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Jazz*. Edited by Leonard Feather and Ira Gitler Oxford. (1999)
- New York Council for the Arts “Meet the Composer” (1996) National Endowment for the Arts Study Grant with jazz saxophonist, Joe Lovano. (1990)

### **Principal Dissertation/Thesis Advisor for Graduate Students**

Hugh Ragin, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Kyle Gentile, MM Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Jonathan Saraga, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis  
 Heath Walton, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Brian Casey, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 David Rajewski, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Otto Lee, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Paul Shinn, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital  
 Daryl Gott, MM Jazz Studies  
 Joanna Sabater, MM Jazz Studies  
 Amy Peck, MM Jazz Studies  
 Damani Phillips, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.  
 Eric Wiggs, MM Jazz Performance & Pedagogy; thesis.  
 Gonzalo Teppa, MM Jazz Performance and Pedagogy, thesis.  
 Greg Garrison, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis.  
 Johannes Wiedenmuller, MM Jazz Performance & Pedagogy; thesis. Joel Linscheid, MM Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.  
 Joshua Quinlan, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.  
 Kurtis Adams, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.  
 Serafin Sanchez, MM Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.  
 Carl Schultz, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis and recital.

### **Principal Recital Advisor for Undergraduate Students**

Danny Moreno, BM Saxophone Performance; recital. Jacob Herald, BM Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Matt Pitts, BM Saxophone Performance; recital. Sterling Steffen, BM Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Anisha Rush, BM Jazz Studies; recital. Julian Stevens, BM Jazz Studies  
 Pablo Gorra, BM Jazz Studies  
 Nicolas Killeen, BM Jazz Studies

### **Member of Dissertation/Thesis Committee (other than Principal Advisor)**

Lucas Munce, DMA Woodwind  
 Ed Breazeale, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Joshua Reed, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Paul Zaborack, DMA Saxophone  
 George Ryan, MM Piano Performance  
 Aaron Miller, MM Jazz Studies; orals and thesis. Andrew Stonerock, DMA Saxophone; recital. Becky Morris, MM Saxophone; orals and recital. Ben Markley, DMA Jazz Studies; recital and thesis. Brian Dean, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis.  
 Bruce Dudley, DMA Jazz Studies; recital and thesis. Carmen Sandim, MM Jazz Studies; thesis.  
 Carl Dixon, MM Percussion; orals.  
 Emily Takahashi, MM Piano; recital.  
 Greg Garrison, DMA Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Hugh Ragin, DMA Jazz Studies; recital and thesis.  
 John Lake, MM Jazz Studies; recital and thesis.  
 Kevin Woods, MM Jazz Studies; orals.  
 Luis Zuniga, DMA Saxophone; orals and recital.  
 Matt Prindiville, MM Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Paula Verdicchio, MM Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Pete Ellingson, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis, recital and orals. Serena Eads, MM Jazz Studies; recital.  
 Tenia Nelson, MM Jazz Studies, thesis, recital and orals. Tyson Ailshie, MM Jazz Studies; thesis.

### **Member of Masters or Ph.D Qualifying Examination Committee**

Andy Nevala, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Becky Morris, MM Saxophone  
 Ben Markley, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Brian Dean, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Bruce Dudley, DMA Jazz Studies  
 Carmen Sandim, MM Jazz Studies.  
 Colin McAllister, MM Percussion  
 Damani Phillips, DMA Jazz  
 John Gunther - CV

Studies Gonzalo Teppa, MM Jazz Studies Grant Larson, MM Saxophone Greg Garrison, DMA Jazz Studies. Joel Linschied, MM Jazz Studies John Lake, MM Jazz Studies  
 Josh Quinlan, DMA Jazz Studies Kevin Woods, MM Jazz Studies Kurtis Adams, DMA Jazz Studies Luis Zuniga, DMA Saxophone Mark Arnett, DMA Composition Paula Verdichio, MM Jazz Studies Pete Ellingson, DMA Jazz Studies Tenia Nelson, MM Jazz Studies Tyson Ailshie, MM Jazz Studies

### **Independent Study/Research Study Groups Supervised**

Faculty mentor for undergraduate student Daniel Meyer who is a McNair Scholar. Weekly one hour meetings.

Jazz Arranging II curriculum taught to BM students Steve Morley and Matt Pitts. Aaron Miller, MM Studies; Independent study in jazz arranging.

Carmen Kidwell, MM Jazz Studies; Independent study in jazz arranging. Damani Phillips, DMA Jazz Studies; Lecture/Recital Advisor.

Hugh Ragin, Continuing Education student and prospective DMA applicant; Special topics in Jazz.

Jennifer Dunn, MM Education; Independent study in jazz pedagogy.

Johannes Wiedenmuller, MM Jazz Studies; Independent study in jazz arranging and improvisation. Josh Quinlan, DMA Jazz Studies; Lecture/Recital Advisor.

Kurtis Adams, DMA Jazz Studies; Lecture/Recital Advisor.

### **Thompson Jazz Student Achievements**

Carl Shultz, Lecturer, Santa Clara University

Josh Reed, Assistant Professor, University of Reno

Sam Griffith, Director of Jazz Studies, University of Missouri Anisha Rush, BM, adjunct professor Metro University

Kurtis Adams - Boise State University, Shepherd University Damani Phillips - Grinnell College, University of Iowa

Joel Linschied, MM Banff Music Workshop Scholarship (2011)

Lucas Munce, MM "Downbeat Magazine" Soloist Award, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Josh

Quinlan, DMA "Downbeat Magazine" Soloist Award (2009) Instructor CU.

Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica: Professor of Saxophone (2018) Serafin Sanchez, MM Ableton certified trainer.

### **SERVICE**

#### **Director of Jazz Studies**

In 2013 The Thompson Jazz Studies program became the first named program on the campus of the University of Colorado Boulder through an endowment by Jack and Jeannie Thompson. The program offers degrees in Bachelor of Music in jazz performance, Masters in jazz performances and pedagogy, and a DMA in jazz studies. Current enrollment – 30 undergraduate majors; 10 graduate majors. Downbeat awards received include Outstanding Performance – big band (2014); Outstanding Performance – Instrumental soloist (2015); Outstanding Performance – combo (2016) in addition to 14 other downbeat awards received. The Concert Jazz Ensemble was invited to perform at the "Next Generation" jazz festival in 2015 and performed throughout Costa Rica in 2017.

Director of Jazz Studies duties include the following: Oversee 2 full-time faculty, 1 instructor, 4 adjunct, and 6 TA's; Guide and implement strategic planning for future departmental initiatives; Management of recruitment and outreach activities; Maintain and cultivate relationships with donors; Oversight of budgets and program spending; Manage course scheduling and teaching assignments for faculty, adjunct instructors and graduate assistants; Oversee scheduling of auditions and juries; Management and decision making related to scholarship and TA allocation; Strategize and implement departmental initiatives towards recruitment and diversity; Oversee maintenance of equipment and the jazz program website; Organizing regular guest artist visits; Supervision of student advising and new initiatives related to curriculum or program development. Represent the jazz studies area on the Leadership Council and at



other important College events, Serve as area liaison to the Office of Concerts and Scheduling and other staff; Scheduling and management of off-campus faculty and student performances.

### **College of Music Committees**

Allie Advocacy Committee/Diversity Equity Inclusion Committees (200-21)

College of Music Dean Search (2020)

Merit Evaluation Committee - Chair (2017-18) Leadership Council

Curriculum Committee

Entrepreneur Committee

Technology Committee

Graduate Committee

Liaison to ATLAS (2006-present)

Jazz Faculty Search – Chair (2013) Ethnomusicology Faculty Search (2012)

### **University Committees**

B2/CMAP Advisory Committee 2021, Academic Futures Committee 2017-18, Strategic Facilities

Visioning 2018, Sonic Arts 2018-19, Boulder Faculty Assembly 2012 - 13

### **Community**

CCJA – Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. Teaching high school age and younger students in small ensemble settings and summer camps.

Clinics throughout the metro-Denver areas as well as in the schools on the western slope.