

JEFF JENKINS

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Colorado-based jazz pianist, composer, and educator Jeff Jenkins currently works as a professor of music in the Thompson Jazz Studies Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Grounded in a wide range of jazz styles, he has released seven original CDs in the last 15 years, while appearing as a featured player on dozens more. Throughout his career Jenkins has appeared locally, nationally and internationally in festivals and clubs with his eponymous ensembles, or as a guest artist with jazz greats including Freddie Hubbard, Eddie Harris, Clark Terry, The New York Voices, Bobby Hutcherson, and John Abercrombie, among others. A product of the acclaimed jazz program at the University of North Texas, Jenkins continued his piano studies in the New York City studios of Fred Hirsch, Richie Beirach, and Kenny Barron. Based in Manhattan in the 1980s, Jenkins performed in noted jazz venues throughout the city, and appeared as principal pianist for several Broadway musicals. A gifted bandleader and in-demand sideman across Colorado and the western region, Jenkins also mixes and produces music professionally in his Mixdown Sound recording studio.

EDUCATION

Private study with Fred Hersh (1982), Richie Beirach (1983), and Kenny Barron (1985)

Jazz Performance: College of Music Division of Jazz Studies, University of Northern Texas, Denton, TX 1978-1981

Music Education: Midland College, Fremont, NE 1975-1977

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Colorado at Boulder:

Lecturer, Thompson Jazz Studies Program, 2009-2018

Instructor, Thompson Jazz Studies Program, 2019-present

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

Commercially Distributed CDs

Featured artist - albums

Unexpected Journeys (American Gramophone) 1989

One World (American Gramophone) 1991

Everything I Love (Baby Jane Records) 2001

Cique (Capri Records) 2007
The Arrival (OA2 Origin Records) 2015
In Blue (self-release) 2018
The Healing (self-release) 2010
2B3 Jimi (self-release) 2021

Featured artist – singles

“Waltz for Joey” and “Khalid” – tribute for bassist Joey Pearlman Original Music Project, 2021
“Trayvon” – tribute for Trayvon Martin, 201?

“Earth Dance”	“Port au Prince”
“The Healing Hymn”	“Jessie”
“Highlife”	“Two Souls”
“The Three Flames”	“Night”
“End of Sides”	“Braking Bad”
“Inside Out”	“Sideways”
“Lost Waltz”	“The Arrival”
“Second Chances”	“Heavy Eddie”
“Song for Jo”	“Blues for EJ”
“El Santuario”	“Earth Dance”
“The Goodbye Season”	“Goodbye Little J”
“The Girl with the Soulful Eyes”	“In Blue”
“Waltz for Ellington”	“Get Your Stame On”
“Out of Towner”	“Waltzing in the House of Mars”
“Hanging Lake”	“The Shorter Route”

Featured artist and composer – film scores (Havey Productions, Denver CO)

The Great Divide, Destiny of the West (2018)
Forging the West (2014)
Max and Maverick, Children’s Miracle Network Champions (2014)
Be Somebody (2013)
The Power of Community (2013)
Gabbie McWilliams, Children’s Miracle Network Champions (2012)
Broomfield, Spirit of the American Dream (2011)
Centennial State House, Colorado’s Greatest Treasure (2011)
The Try (2011)

Contributing artist

The Oxmo Incident, Keith Oxman featuring Frank Morelli (Capri Records) 2021
Two Cigarettes in the Dark, Keith Oxman featuring Houston Person (Capri Records) 2020
Glimpses, Keith Oxman featuring Dave Liebman (Capri Records) 2018
BE(BOP) BOULDER, University of Colorado at Boulder Thompson Jazz Studies Program, 2015
Truest Heart, Nelson Rangell (GRP Records) 1993
In Every Moment, Nelson Rangell (GRP Records) 1992
Nelson Rangell, Nelson Rangell (GRP) 1990

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

International – guest performer or featured artist

Jazz en Vercors Music Festival, Villard de Lans, France (2009, 2010, 2011)

National – guest performer or featured artist

Jazz in June, Lincoln, Nebraska (2021)
Basalt Jazz Festival, Basalt, Colorado (2020)
Central Jazz Fest, Central City (2017)
Broomfield Auditorium Jazz Concert Series (2011- 2019)
“Blind Tiger,” *Gift of Jazz*, Denver (2012)
Kailin Yong in Concert, Broomfield Auditorium (2012)
Rocky Mountain PBS Valentine Concert (2011)
“Piano Africa,” *City Park Jazz Festival*, Denver (2010)
Boulder Public Library Live Music Series (2010)
Longmont Council of the Arts concert series (2010)
“Gift of Jazz,” *Mile High Music* series, Denver (2010)
Jazz on the Green, Omaha, Nebraska (2009)
Five Points Jazz Festival, Denver (2006)
Telluride Jazz Festival (2003)
Estes Park Jazz Festival (2001)
Peak View Jazz, Vail (2000)
Detroit Jazz Festival (1993)
Jazz Aspen Snowmass

Additional Performances

Performances with Notable Jazz Artists/Groups

Marlena Shaw, *Estes Park Jazz Festival* (2004)
David Fathead Newman, *Westcliffe Jazz Festival* (2001)
Count Basie Orchestra, *Aspen Jazz Festival* (2009)
New York Voices, *Telluride Jazz Festival* (2007)
Bobby Hutcherson, *Westcliffe Jazz Festival* (2001)
Nelson Rangell, New York (1996) and London (1995)
Teddy Edwards
Freddie Hubbard
Eddie Harris
Clark Terry
Dakota Staton
Frank Morgan
Renee Marie
John Abercrombie
Houston Person
Richie Cole

Lead Pianist/Keyboards in Broadway and off-Broadway shows

Little Shop of Horrors (off-Broadway production, 1984; 1st national tour, 1986)

The Who's Tommy (1st National tour, 1994; German production, in Offenach am Main, 1996)

Pianist/Conductor at the Denver Performing Arts Center

Forever Plaid (1997)

Always Patsy Cline (1998)

The Taffetas (1999)

My Way (2002)

Livestreams

Close to Home: A Tribute to Lyle Mays (2020)

2B3 Jimi: The Music of Jimi Hendrix (2020)

Tribute to Bill Evans (2020)

Playing in the Groove (2020)

GRANTS, HONORS & AWARDS

Cique – named one of the Top Ten Jazz Releases by the *Boston Globe* (2007)

Selected Reviews

Two Cigarettes in the Dark in the online journal AllAboutJazz.com. Jack Bowers and Edward Blanco, reviewers. (2020)

The Jason Klobnak Quartet/Quintet: Friends & Family in the online in the online journal AllAboutJazz.com. C. Michael Bailey, reviewer. (2018)

Jeff Jenkins Organization: The Arrival in the online journal AllAboutJazz.com. C. Michael Bailey, reviewer. (2015)

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- PMUS-1636-801 *Continuing Education*. A class for non-music majors designed to introduce them to the world of jazz piano. (2016–present)
- MUSC-5336-001 *Practicum*. Graduate-level independent study, designed to promote students' academic desires not addressed in curriculum. (2018, 2020)
- PMUS-151-001 *Jazz Piano*. A group class for non-pianist jazz students. (2015–present)
- PMUS-4116-001 *Advanced Jazz Composition and Analysis*. A class designed to help students take the “next step” in jazz composition. (2020)
- PMUS-3081-001 *Advanced Jazz Theory and Aural Fundamentals*. A study of composition, composers, and modern composing techniques. (2019)
- MUSC-3061 *Jazz Improvisation I*. A class to introduce solid and basic concepts of jazz improvisation. (2019)
- MUSC-3071 *Jazz Improvisation II*. A playing and listening class to take skills to a higher level. (2018)

Master class teaching and lectures

- Lecture “Surviving the Pandemic as an Artist” for Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts, a not-for-profit organization serving young musicians throughout the Denver metro area. (2021)
- Lecture “Weather Report: Late Miles to Mysterious Traveler” for Performance Class in the Thompson Jazz Studies Program, University of Colorado at Boulder. (2020)
- Master Classes “Finding the Sweet Notes” and “Working with a Rhythm Section,” for the *Songbird Vocal Jazz Festival* in Lafayette, Colorado. (2019)
- Lecture “Working on Your Vocal Arrangement” for Cherry Creek High School Music Department, a Denver metro public school. (2015 – present)

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

- Breazeale, DMA Jazz Studies
- Joshua Reed, DMA Jazz Studies
- 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
- Greg Garrison, DMA Jazz Studies; recital
- Hugh Ragin, DMA Jazz Studies; recital and thesis
- John Lake, MM Jazz Studies; recital and thesis.
- Pete Ellingson, DMA Jazz Studies; thesis, recital and orals
- Tenia Nelson, MM Jazz Studies, thesis, recital and orals.
- Annie Booth, MM Jazz Studies
- Michael D'Angello, DMA Jazz Studies

Member of Masters or PhD. Qualifying Exam Committee

Annie Booth, MM 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.
Gonzalo Teppa, MM Jazz Studies
Greg Garrison, DMA Jazz Studies
Joel Linschied, MM Jazz Studies
Josh Quinlan, DMA Jazz Studies
Michael D'Angello, DMA Jazz Studies
Pete Ellingson, DMA Jazz Studies
Tenia Nelson, MM Jazz Studies

Independent Study/Research Groups Supervised

David Benoit, MM Jazz Studies; “Developing an online class for young jazz saxophonists.”
Stacey Novik, MM Jazz Studies; “Making a roadmap for recreating a recording session.”
Nate Marsh, MM Jazz Studies; “Composing for a specific band and recording.”
Decker Babcock, MM Jazz Studies; “Adapting a big band chart for young musicians.”

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 State University
Joel Linschied, Banff Music Workshop Scholarship
Josh Quinlan, “Downbeat Magazine” Soloist Award (2009), Instructor CU-Boulder, Professor of Saxophone, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (2018)
Serafin Sanchez, Ableton certified trainer
Annie Booth, Outstanding Young Composer JEN Conference (2019)
Ben Markley, Director of Jazz Studies, University of Wyoming
Annie Booth, Instructor of Music, University of Northern Colorado

SERVICE

College of Music Committees

Curriculum Committee (2020-2021)

Community

CCJA – Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. Teaching middle- and high school-age music students in small ensemble settings and summer camps. (2000-2019)

CMEA – Colorado Music Educators, Colorado Springs. Lecture/master class “Taming Your Rhythm Section” for high school-age music students. (2017-2018)
Gift of Jazz – taught Jazz Composition and Jazz Improvisation. (2016-2018)
Clinics in public schools throughout the Denver metro area.

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

Boulder County Arts Alliance
Broadcast Music (BMI)
Colorado Conservatory of Jazz Arts
Colorado Documentary Film Commission
Jazz Education Network (JEN)