

Melvin L. Butler, Ph.D.

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Education

Ph.D. Music [ethnomusicology], New York University, 2005

M.A. Music [ethnomusicology], New York University, 2000

M.A. Music and Performing Arts Professions [jazz studies], New York University, 1997

B.M. Performance (*cum laude*) [saxophone], Berklee College of Music, 1993

Administrative Experience

University of Miami

Chair, Department of Musicology, Frost School of Music, University of Miami, 2025–present

Academic Ombudsperson, Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost, University of Miami, 2024–present

Associate Dean, Office of Academic Enhancement for Undergraduate Affairs, University of Miami, 2023–2025

University of Chicago

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Music, Division of the Humanities, 2010–2012

National Leadership

President, Society for Ethnomusicology (2023–2025); Board Member, 2022–present

Executive Committee, American Council of Learned Societies, 2024–2025

Board Member, BLUME Haiti (Building Leaders Using Music Education), 2021–present

Board Member, Haitian Studies Association, 2010–2013

Secretary & Board Member, International Association for the Study of Popular Music (US) 2008–2010

Academic Appointments

University of Miami

Associate Professor, Department of Musicology, 2016–present

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Global Black Studies, 2022–present

Faculty-in-Residence, Stanford and Mahoney Residential Colleges, 2018–present

Georgetown University

Royden B. Davis, S. J. Visiting Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and African American Studies, Spring 2022

University of Chicago

Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Division of the Humanities, 2008–2016

Affiliate Faculty, Divinity School; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture

Yale University

Visiting Assistant Professor, Institute of Sacred Music and Department of Music, Spring 2013

University of Virginia

Assistant Professor, Department of Music, College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2005–2008

Publications

Books

- 2019 *Island Gospel: Pentecostal Music and Identity in Jamaica and the United States*. University of Illinois Press.
- Claiming Haiti: Music and the Cultural Politics of Transcendence*. Oxford University Press
(In progress and under advance contract).

Edited Volumes (in progress)

Area Editor, English and French Caribbean, *Grove Dictionary of Latin American and Iberian Music*, Oxford Music Online

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- 2023 “Playful Transcendence: Paths to Human Flourishing in Black Music Research and Performance.” pp. 175-197 in *Music and Human Flourishing*, edited by Anna Harwell Celenza, NY: Oxford University Press.
- 2021 “Researching Black Congregational Music from a Migratory Point of View: Methods, Challenges, and Strategies.” In *Studying Congregational Music: Key Issues, Methods, and Theoretical Perspectives*, edited by Andrew Mall, Monique Ingalls, and Jeffers Engelhardt. New York: Routledge.
- 2016 “Performing Pannkotis Identity in Haiti.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Music and World Christianities*, edited by Suzel Reily and Jonathan Dueck, 606–28. NY: Oxford University Press.
- 2015 “La Musique, le Pentecôtisme, et le travail spirituel dans les *Lame Selès*: A la recherche de connexions diasporique.” *Bulletin du Bureau National d’Ethnologie d’Haiti*, 110–27.
- 2014 “Haitian Djaz Diplomacy and the Cultural Politics of Musical Collaboration.” In *Music and Diplomacy from the Early Modern Era to the Present*, edited by Rebekah Ahrendt, Mark Ferraguto, and Damien Mahiet, 209–29. Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2014 “Singing like David Sang: Queerness and Masculinity in Black Gospel Performance.” In *Readings in African American Church Music and Worship, Volume 2*, edited by James Abbingdon, 715–25. Chicago: GIA Publications.
- 2010 “Performing Pentecostalism: Music, Identity, and the Interplay of Jamaican and African American Styles.” In *Rhythms of the Afro-Atlantic World: Rituals and Remembrances*, edited by Ifeoma Nwankwo and Mamadou Diouf, 41–54. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- 2010 “Ethnomusicology and the African Diaspora.” In *The African Diaspora and the Disciplines*, edited by Tejumola Olaniyan and James Sweet, 41–54. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press.
- 2010 “The Spirit of David: Negotiating Faith and Masculinity in Black Gospel Performance,” *Religion and Culture Forum*, The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. UChicago.
- 2010 “(Re)Voicing Race and Religion: A Response to Sarah Imhoff’s ‘The Man in Black: Matisyahu, Identity, and Authenticity,’” *Religion and Culture Forum*, The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. University of Chicago.
- 2008 “Dancing around Dancehall: Pentecostalism, Popular Culture, and Musical Practice in Transnational Jamaica and Haiti.” In *Constructing Vernacular Culture in the Trans-Caribbean*, eds., Holger Henke, Karl-Heinz Magister, and Alissa Trotz, 63–99. Lanham: Lexington Books.

- 2008 "In Zora's Footsteps: Experiencing Music and Pentecostal Ritual in the African Diaspora." *Obsidian* 9:1, 74–106.
- 2008 "The Weapons of Our Warfare: Music, Positionality, and Transcendence Among Haitian Pentecostals." *Caribbean Studies*. 36, no 2, 23–64.
- 2008 "Music, Power, and Identity in the African Diaspora." In *What Should I Read Next? 70 University of Virginia Professors Recommend Readings in History, Politics, Literature, Math, Science, Technology, the Arts, and More*, edited by Jessica R. Feldman and Robert Stilling, 221–24. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.
- 2007 "Thoughts on the Intersection of Race and Faith in the Study of Popular Music." *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 19, no. 1, 113–17.
- 2002 "'Nou Kwe Nan Sentespri' (We Believe in the Holy Spirit): Music, Ecstasy, and Identity in Haitian Pentecostal Worship." *Black Music Research Journal* 22, no. 1, 85–125.
- 2000 "Musical Style and Experience in a Brooklyn Pentecostal Church: An 'Insider's' Perspective." *Current Musicology* 70, 33–50.

Other Publications

- 2025 Lamoureux, J., Butler, M.L., McKoon, K., & Cozens, A. (2025). Differential effects of recent SCOTUS decisions on support for under-represented students. Proceedings and Abstracts of the Eastern Psychological Assoc., 96, 115.
- 2024 "Finding Joys, Clues, and 'Good Work' in Ethnomusicology." *Newsletter of the Society for Ethnomusicology*. Volume 58, no. 1. 2024.
- 2024 "Reflections on a Six-Month Journey." *Newsletter of the Society for Ethnomusicology*. Vol. 58, no. 2. 2024.
- 2024 "Commitments, Crises, and Categories: Looking Ahead to our Annual Meeting." *Newsletter of the Society for Ethnomusicology*. Volume 58, no. 4. 2024.

Reviews of Books and Films

- 2020 *Water Prayers for Bass Clarinet, The Vodou Horn: Asakivle Meets Austerlitz, and Dr. Merengue* by Paul Austerlitz. *Ethnomusicology* 64, no. 3: 553–63.
- 2013 *The Other Side of the Water: The Journey of a Haitian Rara Band in Brooklyn*. (film) *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, 45, 288–89.
- 2007 *Lining Out the Word: Dr. Watts Hymn Singing in the Music of Black Americans* by William T. Dargan; *Singing in My Soul: Black Gospel Music in a Secular Age* by Jerma A. Jackson; "Let the Church Church Sing!": *Music and Worship in a Black Mississippi Community* by Therese Smith; and *The Holy Profane: Religion in Black Popular Music* by Teresa L. Reed. *Ethnomusicology* 51, no 3, 522–28.
- 2007 *Vodou Nation: Haitian Art Music and Cultural Nationalism* by Michael Largey. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75, no. 1, 162–65.
- 2007 *Migration and Vodou* by Karen E. Richman. *The World of Music* 1, 204–207.

Public Scholarship (Op-Ed)

- 2020 “Why Black Gospel Music Still Matters despite the Rise of Contemporary Christian Music,” *Chicago Tribune*, March 2.
- 2020 “Does Kamala Harris’s Music Matter?” *The Hill*, September 12.

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2008 “Crouch, Andrae.” *African American National Biography*, ed., Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. *Oxford African American Studies Center*.
- 2008 “Brewster, William Herbert.” *African American National Biography*, ed., Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. *Oxford African American Studies Center*.
- 2005 “Globalization of Gospel” In *Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music*, ed., William McNeil, 139–41. Routledge.
- 2005 “Gospel Choirs” *Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music*, ed., William McNeil, 144–47. Routledge.
- 2005 “Gospel Quartets” *Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music*, ed., William McNeil, 156–160. Routledge.
- 2005 “Singing in Tongues” *Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music*, ed., William McNeil, 344–45. Routledge, 2005.

Editorial and Advisory Boards and Committees

Black Sacred Music (2025-2028)
Black Music, In Theory (2024-2027)
American Music (2020-2022)
Yale Journal of Music & Religion (2020-2023)
The Cambridge History of Christian Sacred Music: 1500 to the Present (2021-)
Ethnomusicology, Co-Editor, Book Reviews, (2022)
Committee on the Publication of American Music, American Musicological Society, 2020-2024
College Board Advanced Placement® Capstone Course Development Committee, 2013–2014
Publication Advisory Committee, Int’l Assoc. for the Study of Popular Music [US], 2008–2009

Conference Program and Prize Committees

Member, Society for Ethnomusicology Program Committee, 2013 and 2021
Chair, Alan Merriam Prize Committee, Society for Ethnomusicology, 2023
Chair, Bruno Nettl Prize Committee, Society for Ethnomusicology, 2021
Member, Bruno Nettl Prize Committee, Society for Ethnomusicology, 2020 and 2023
Member, Program Committee, Society for Christian Scholarship in Music, 2013
Chair, Program Committee, Conference of the Haitian Studies Association, 2013

Other Academic Service

University of Miami

Chair, Culture, Equity, & Diversity Advisory Committee, Frost School of Music, 2023-2024
Co-Chair, Culture, Equity, & Diversity Advisory Committee, Frost School of Music, 2020-2023
Member, Executive Working Group Committee: Center for Global Black Studies, 2020-2023
Member, University Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, 2020-2024
Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, Frost School of Music, 2024-present
Member, Graduate Curriculum Advisory Committee, Frost School of Music, 2020-2024

Mentor, “Empower Me First” Program for First Generation Students, Office of Academic Enhancement, 2021-2023
Member, “Expanding the Canon” Working Group, Lowe Art Museum, 2021-2022
Member, “Contemporary Glass” Working Group, Lowe Art Museum, 2021-2022
Chair, Search Committee, Musicology, Frost School of Music, 2019-2020
Chair, Search Committee, Musicology, Frost School of Music, 2017-2018
Member, Search Committee, Jazz Saxophone, Frost School of Music, 2020-2021
Member, Search Committee, Instrumental Performance (Flute), 2017-18
Member, Selection Committee, U-Link Social Equity Fellowships, 2020-21
Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Frost School of Music, 2016-2017
Member, One Book, One U Selection Committee, Center for the Humanities, 2019-2021
Interviewer, Ronald A. Hammond Scholarship Selection Weekend, Office of Academic Enhancement, 2018-2019
Member, University of Miami Research Council, 2016-17
Member, School Council, Frost School of Music, 2017-2020
Faculty Advisor, Butler-Hammond Gospel Choir, 2017-2025
Faculty Advisor, Chess Club, 2022-2025

University of Chicago

Admissions Committee, Dept. of Music, 2014-2015
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Dept. of Music, 2014-2015
Steering Committee, The Bridge (collaboration of musicians from US and France), 2013-2015
Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship Selection Committee, Winter 2012
Prize Committee, The Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists, 2009-2011.
Fellowship Selection Committee, Center for the Study of Race, Politics Culture, 2010
Mentor, Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program, 2009
Faculty Sponsor, Ethnoise! Music, Culture, and Language Workshop, Dept. of Music, 2009
Practicum Committee, Dept. of Music, 2009

University of Virginia

Member, Music Department Oboe Principal Search Committee, Spring 2008
Member, Faculty Senate, 2006-2008
Subcommittee for Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Welfare, 2007-2008.
Member, Committee on Student Life (Commission on the Future of the University), 2006-2008
Faculty Advisor, Black Voices [Student-led gospel choir], 2006-2008
Faculty Mentor, Office of African American Affairs, 2006-2008
Member, Fellowship Selection Committee, Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies, , 2006-2008
Academic Advisor (33 music majors and undergraduate non-majors), 2005-2008
Member, Music Department Trumpet Principal Search Committee, Spring 2006
Member, Music Department Steering Committee, 2007-2008
Music Department Graduate Committee, 2005-2007.
Music Department Colloquium Committee, 2005-2008

Anonymous Peer Reviews

Oxford University Press; *American Music*; *Ethnomusicology Forum*; *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diaspora*; *Black Music Research Journal*; *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* (Australia); Routledge; *Yale Journal of Music and Religion*

Grants, Awards, and Honors

- 2024 Frost Star Award (for excellent service), Frost School of Music, University of Miami
- 2022 Image Award, NAACP, University of Miami Chapter
- 2020 Public Voices Fellowship, Op-Ed Project
- 2019 Nominee, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars, Morehouse College
- 2019 Bruno Nettl Endowment for Ethnomusicology Grant, for book *Island Gospel*, University of Illinois Press (to support publication of diverse research in musicology)
- 2018 Faculty Fellowship, Stanford Residential College, University of Miami
- 2018 Grammy Award Certificate, Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album, *American Dreamers: Voices of Hope, Music of Freedom*, John Daversa Big Band featuring DACA Artists
- 2015 Grammy Nomination, Best Jazz Instrumental Album, *Landmarks*, Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band
- 2012 Fellowship in Sacred Music, Worship, and the Arts, Yale Institute of Sacred Music
- 2008 Sesquicentennial Associate Fellowship – University of Virginia [declined]
- 2007 Teaching Award, Mead Honored Faculty Endowment Program, University of Virginia
- 2004 Fellowship, Thurgood Marshall Dissertation Award, Dartmouth College
- 2001 Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship (Jamaica)
- 2000 Hewitt A. Pantaleoni Prize, Best Student Paper, Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology
- 1999 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
- 1996 Research Assistantship, Metro Center for Urban Education, New York University
- 1991 Joseph Viola Award for Outstanding Woodwind Performer, Berklee College of Music
- 1990 Boston Jazz Society Award

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

- 2023 “Locating the Field: Gospel Music Communities in the Caribbean and the United States,” British Forum for Ethnomusicology, November 3. (virtual)
- 2023 “‘Whose Jazz?’: Exploring Cultural Flows through Haitian and African American Improvised Music,” VIII Symposium of Interconnected Arts and Music Performance at Berklee College of Music, October 13.
- 2021 “Analytical Perspectives on Possibility, Permutation, and Polytemporality in Improvised Drumming Traditions,” *Discussant*, Society for Ethnomusicology, October 29. (virtual)
- 2021 “Lines in the Sand: Music, Flow, and Boundary-Crossing in Jamaican Pentecostal Worship.” Colloquium Series University of Cambridge, October 27. (virtual)
- 2021 “Goodbye World: Music, Flow, and Identity in Jamaica’s Pentecostal Diaspora.” Music Abroad Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, September 22. (virtual)
- 2021 “Goodbye World: Music, Flow, and Identity in Jamaica’s Pentecostal Diaspora.” Plenary address, Christian Congregational Music: Local and Global Perspectives, Conference, Ripon College Cuddesdon (UK), Aug. 5.
- 2021 Artists of Color in the Performing and Visual Arts, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami. *Moderator*. March 4.
- 2021 Jazz and Djaz: Exploring Cultural Flows through Haitian Improvised Music” University of Miami Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (U-Link), March 3.
- 2021 “Research and Professional Development in Musicology,” Florida State University, February 24.
- 2019 “African American Gospel Music, Instrumentality, and Embodiment,” Conversations in Christianity + Culture Lecture Series, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, TX. Nov. 21.
- 2019 “Changing Meters: Musical Migrations and Improvisations in South Florida’s ‘Haitian Jazz’ Scene,” Haitian Studies Association, Gainesville, FL. October 18.
- 2019 “In Tune with the Spirit: Black Gospel Music, Instrumentality, Embodiment, and Power,” Michigan State University, College of Music, East Lansing, MI. October 4.
- 2019 “Haitian Jazz and American Jazz: Historical Connections and Specificities,” (panel discussant), The City University of New York, Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn NY. Sept. 20.
- 2019 “Boundaries and Battle Lines: Music, Worship, and Spiritual Warfare in Haitian Pentecostal Churches,” University of Rochester’s Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, Rochester, NY. April 18.
- 2019 “In Tune with the Spirit: Gospel Music, Instrumentality, Embodiment, and Power,” Department of Music, Washington University in St. Louis (MO). April 5.

- 2019 "Playing with Fire: Sound, Transcendence, and Protest in African Diasporic Ritual Performance," Racial Justice: Arts and Activism (Lecture Series), Georgetown University, Washington, DC. March 21.
- 2019 "Playful Transcendence: Paths to Human Flourishing in Black Music Research and Performance" Humanities and Human Flourishing Project. Curtis Institute/University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. March 1.
- 2019 "Black Sacred Music at the Intersection of Gospel and Jazz," Pruitt Symposium, Baylor University, Feb. 7.
- 2018 "(Ethno)Musicology at the Intersections of Race and Faith: Reflections of an African American Pentecostal Scholar," Project Spectrum, Pre-conference Symposium, American Musicological Society, San Antonio, TX. November 1.
- 2018 "Sounding World Christianities: Music-Making as Method for Understanding Meaning, Affect, and Experience in Christian Communities Worldwide," Conference on Currents, Perspectives, and Methodologies in World Christianity, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ. January 18.
- 2017 "Getting in Tune: Music, Instrumentality, and Embodiment in Black Sanctified Churches," Recovering the Bones: African American Material Religion and Religious Memory. Symposium. National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC. October 28.
- 2017 "From Spirituals to Blood Songs: Remembering Tradition and Deliverance through Gospel Performance," Keynote lecture, Pruitt Symposium, Baylor University, Waco, TX. October 5.
- 2017 "What Kind of Church Is This? Musical Transcendence and Cultural Politics in Christian Worship" Forester Lecture, Huntington University, Huntington, IN. March 7.
- 2014 "Spiritual and Sexual Transcendence in Afro-Pentecostal Practice," Are the Gods Afraid of Sexuality? Religion and the Burdens of Black Sexual Politics. Symposium. Columbia University, October 23.
- 2013 "Music, Pentecostalism, and Theopolitics in Haiti," University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 31.
- 2013 "Music, Worship, & the Politics of Transcendence in Haiti," Northwestern University, May 14.
- 2013 "Music in the Haitian Pentecostal Context," Princeton Theological Seminary, April 13.
- 2013 "*Ayiti pi djanm ak jazz*": Musical Appropriation and Cultural Diplomacy at Haiti's Port-au-Prince Jazz Festival, Music and Diplomacy Conference, Harvard and Tufts, Cambridge, MA. April 1.
- 2012 "Charismatic Ethnomusicology?: Experiencing Gifts of the Spirit in Ethnographic Fieldwork," Society for Ethnomusicology, New Orleans, LA. November 2.
- 2012 "Dangerous Dancehalls: Performing Worldliness and Womanhood in Pentecostal Jamaica," Black Women & Pentecostalism in Diaspora Symposium, Bowdoin College, April 21.
- 2011 "Keywords of Music and Motion: Body," Society for Ethnomusicology Roundtable Conference Presentation, Philadelphia, PA. November 17.
- 2011 "Reclaiming Haiti: Pentecostalism and the Theopolitics of Musical Performance." (invited plenary keynote) Christian Congregational Music: Local & Global Perspectives, Ripon College Cuddesdon, England. Sept. 1.
- 2011 "Music, Identity, and Spirit Work in Haiti, Jamaica, and their Diasporas," Ethnomusicology and Global Culture, NEH Summer Institute, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. June 23.
- 2010 "Transcending Performance/Performing Transcendence: Faith and Fact in Caribbeanist Ethnomusicology" Center for Black Music Research, Chicago, IL. April 13.
- 2008 "Pentecostal Worship and the Performance of Transcendence in Haiti and the United States." Society for Ethnomusicology, Middletown, CT. October 28.
- 2008 "Contested Boundaries: Negotiating Music, Ritual, and Identity in Haiti and Jamaica," Zora Neale Hurston Conference of the Arts and Humanities. Eatonville, FL. February 1.
- 2007 "Contested Boundaries: Negotiating Music, Ritual, and Identity in the Haitian Transnation," Haitian Studies Association, Boca Raton, FL. October 6.
- 2007 "Ethnomusicology's Contribution to African and African Diasporic Studies" The Carter G. Woodson Institute's 25th Anniversary Symposium, "Celebrating the Legacy, Scholarship and Future of the Woodson Institute," University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. April 21.
- 2007 "'I Will Sing like David Sang': Negotiating Gender, Faith, and Performance in African-American Pentecostal Churches" University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. February 2.
- 2006 "Improvising in the Field: Metanarratives of Performance and Identity in the African Diaspora," Music in Performance Symposium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. December 1.
- 2006 "'I Will Sing like David Sang': Negotiating Gender, Faith, and Performance in African-American Pentecostal Churches," Society for Ethnomusicology, Honolulu, HI, November 16.
- 2006 "African Cross-Currents in the Atlantic: Race, Ethnicity and Transnational Identity," Panelist, Haitian Studies Association, Charlottesville, VA. October 5.
- 2006 "Seeking the Haitian Soul: Intersections of Music, Identity, and Pentecostal Practice in Haiti," Department of History, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. March 30.

- 2006 “Music and Pentecostalism in the Haitian Context: The Nexus of Faith and National Identity,” Conference, Duke University, Cultural Anthropology and Latin American Studies, February 24.
- 2006 “Appropriating Gospel: Jamaican Identity, Style, and the Transnationalization of African American Gospel Music,” International Assoc. for the Study of Popular Music-US, Murfreesboro, TN. Feb. 18.
- 2005 “Heavenly Armies: Music, Opposition, and Spiritual Warfare in Haiti,” United States Department of State, Conference on the Caribbean, Washington, DC. Oct. 6.
- 2004 “‘I Love the Old Time Way’: Religious Identity, Pentecostal Tradition, and the Role of African American Gospel Music in Jamaica” Society for Ethnomusicology, Tucson, AZ. Nov. 4.
- 2003 “Fighting Fire with Fire: Pentecostal Transcendence, Musico-Spiritual Warfare, and Transnationalism in Haitian ‘Heavenly Army’ Churches.” Society for Ethnomusicology, Miami, FL. Oct. 2.
- 2001 “Music, Identity and Pentecostal Worship in Haiti” Inter-American Conference on Black Music Research, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. May 25.
- 2000 “Negotiating African-American and West Indian Styles of Musical Worship in a Brooklyn Pentecostal Church,” Society for Ethnomusicology, Toronto, Canada. Nov. 4.

Student Advising

Doctoral Dissertations (Chair)

Lauren E. Eldridge, “Playing Haitian: Musical Negotiations of Nation, Genre, and Self,” Music, defended April 22, 2016, University of Chicago.

Alisha L. Jones, “‘We are a Peculiar People’: Meaning, Masculinity, and Competence in Gendered Gospel Performance,” Music, defended August 27, 2014, University of Chicago.

Doctoral Dissertations, Essays, and Recitals (Committee Member)

Jie Jiang, Saxophone Performance, Recital, April 26, 2025, and Doctoral Essay Proposal, defended October 28, 2025, University of Miami.

Ke Xu, “Selected Piano Compositions by Adolf Henselt: Culture, Analysis, And Performance,” Keyboard Performance, defended April 19, 2025, University of Miami.

Alvin Phan, “Political Statement Music for Classical Saxophone,” Lecture Recital with Research Paper, defended March 25, 2025, University of Miami.

Sheldon McLean, “Roots, Routes, and Repertoire: African Diasporic Ties to American Wind Ensemble Music,” defended March 28, 2024, University of Miami.

Bailey Grogan, “A Study of the Lives and Careers of Six Black Female Jazz Instrumentalists: Valaida Snow, Pauline Braddy, Melba Liston, Clara Bryant, Terry Pollard, and Dorothy Ashby,” Jazz Vocal Performance, defended March 30, 2023, University of Miami.

Christina DiMeglio Vafiadis, “David Maslanka’s Compositional Process Examined through Correspondence with Conductor and Collaborator Gary Green.” Conducting, defended April 2, 2021, University of Miami.

Jake Shapiro, “An Examination of Entrepreneurial Courses Offered to Jazz Majors at Leading Jazz Schools,” Jazz Performance, defended March 31, 2021, University of Miami.

Josiah Boornazian, “Teaching College Level Jazz Skills Using Interactive Digital Technologies and the Flipped Classroom Mode,” defended Feb. 1, 2019, Jazz Performance, Univ. of Miami.

Zachary Bartholomew, “A Jazz Pianist’s Guide to Developing Rhythmic Independence through the Adaptation of Afro-Cuban Rhythms,” defended April 2, 2018, University of Miami.

Braxton Shelley, “Sermons in Song: Richard Smallwood, the Vamp, and the Gospel Imagination,” defended March 10, 2017, University of Chicago.

Genevieve Dempsey, “‘Salve Maria’: The Sacred Sound of Congado in Brazil,” defended May 3, 2016, University of Chicago.

Lee Bidgood, “Performing Americanness, Locating Identity: Bluegrass and Ethnography in the Czech Republic,” defended December 10, 2010, University of Virginia.

Master’s Theses (Chair)

Brandon Dye, “Sounds About White: White Insertion, African American Spirituals, Change, and Identity Through the Hampton Singers’ Tours,” Musicology, defended April 2024, University of Miami.

Luke Franc, “Club Space: Jazz, EDM, and the Cultural Politics of Live Music in Miami,” Musicology, defended April 1, 2022, University of Miami.

Marcus Grant, “‘Say Their Names’: Black Music-Making in a Time of Protest,” Musicology. Defended April 2, 2021, University of Miami.

Rachel Schuck, “Sustaining Sampradaya: Carnatic Music, Pedagogy, and Devotion at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival,” Musicology. defended, March 7, 2019, University of Miami.

Master’s Theses and Recitals (Committee Member)

Sam Keedy, Studio Jazz Writing, defended April 15, 2025

Xile Wang, Saxophone, Jazz Writing, Recital, March 22, 2025

Corinne Keefer, “Nostalgia: The Second Nintendo Generation, Consumerism, and Music on the Edge of Reality,” Musicology, defended March 31, 2023, University of Miami.

Emma Karp, “Gender Representation in *Downbeat* Magazine since WWII,” Musicology, defended April 2022, University of Miami

Bryce Noe, “Freestyle Soundscapes: An Acoustemology of Feestyle Skateboarding Contests,” Musicology, defended March 2022, University of Miami

Hannah Junco, “Rikudim in Havana: Politics of Dance in Cuban Synagogues,” Musicology, defended April 2, 2021, University of Miami

Destiny L. Meadows, “HIV/AIDS Activist Music Video Creation in New York City and Toronto (1987-1995),” Musicology, defended March 22, 2021, University of Miami

Rafael Torralvo da Silva, “From Suassuna to Guerra-Peixe: The Armorial Music Movement in Brazil During the Military Dictatorship (1964–1985)—Constructing Notions of Northeastern Identity Through Music and Literature,” Musicology, defended April 2, 2018.

Alexander Javizian, “La Otra Cara del Punk: Punk Rock and Resistance at the End of the Argentine Guerra Sucia, 1981–1982,” Musicology, defended April 28, 2017, University of Miami

Linda M. Alvarado, Jazz Voice Recital Paper, defended April 26, 2017, University of Miami

Samantha L. Capell, Jazz Voice Recital Paper, defended April 26, 2017, University of Miami

Selected Recordings

with Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band

2023 *Kings Highway* (Stoner Hill)

2022 *Live from the Archives: Blues Alley, Washington DC.* (Stoner Hill)

2018 *Blue Note Review: Volume Two – Spirit & Time*, “Warrior”

2017 *Body and Shadow*, (Blue Note)

- 2014 *Landmarks*, (Blue Note) -GRAMMY NOMINATED
- 2008 *Season of Changes*, (Universal/Verve)
- 2000 *Perceptual*, (Capitol/Blue Note) (vinyl release in 2014)
- 1998 *Brian Blade Fellowship*, (Capitol/Blue Note)
- with John Daversa Big Band / Jazz Orchestra
 - 2021 *All Without Words: Variations Inspired by Loren*
 - 2018 *American Dreamers: Voices of Hope, Music of Freedom* -GRAMMY WINNER
- with Javier Nero
 - 2020 *Javier Nero, Freedom*
- with Reuben Wilson
 - 2002 *Organ Blues*, (Jazzateria)
 - 1998 *Down With It*, (Cannonball)
 - 1997 *Organ Donor*, (Jazzateria)
- with Stephane Mercier
 - 2000 *Flor de Luna*, (Fresh Sound New Talent)
- with Magali Souriau
 - 2000 *Birdland Sessions* (Koch Jazz)
- with Eric Essix
 - 2000 *Southbound* (Zebra Records)
 - 1998 *Small Talk* (Zebra Records)
- with Tabou Combo
 - 2000 *Sans Limites*, (Antilles Mizik)
 - 1998 *Overdrive / 360 Degrees* (Hibiscus)
 - 1997 *Why Not?* (Hibiscus)

Selected Performances and Venues

with Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band

- Old Town School of Folk Music, Chicago, IL, June 17, 2022
- Jazz Kitchen, Indianapolis, IN, June 19, 2022
- Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Fisher Music Center, Paradise Jazz Series, June 25, 2021
- GroundUP Music Festival, Miami Beach, FL, 2020
- Frankfurt Radio Big Band (Germany), 2019
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg, Ontario, 2019
- Montreal Jazz Festival (Canada) 2018
- Duke University, Baldwin Auditorium, Durham, NC 2018.
- Loyola University, New Orleans, LA 2017.
- The Royal Conservatory, Toronto, Canada 2016
- San Francisco Jazz Festival 2016, 2000
- Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall), 2015.
- North Sea Jazz Festival (Amsterdam) 2015, 1998
- Panama Jazz Festival 2015
- Village Vanguard, New York, 2023, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2000
- Monterey Jazz Festival, Monterey, CA, 2014, 2008
- Newport Jazz Festival, Newport, RI, 2014, 2009, 2008
- Blue Note, Tokyo, Japan, May 21-23, 2012
- La Note Bleue, Monaco, 2011.
- Duc des Lombards, Paris, France, 2011.
- Cotton Club, Tokyo, Japan, 2011, 2008, 2025
- Malguenac Festival (France) 2011
- Oslo Jazz Festival (Norway) 2011
- Kimmel Center, Philadelphia PA, 2007.
- Paris Jazz Festival (France) 2005
- Malta Jazz Festival 2005
- Regatta Bar, Boston, MA 2000, 1998
- Scullers, Boston, MA 2000
- Blues Alley, Washington, D.C. 2000, 1998
- Jazz Alley, Seattle, WA 2000

Catalina's Bar and Grill, Los Angeles, CA 2000
Zanzibar Blue, Philadelphia, PA 2000
Blue Note, New York, NY 1998
Poori Jazz Festival (Finland) 1998
with Christian McBride
Park City Jazz Festival (Utah) 1999
with Tabou Combo
World Creole Music Festival, Dominica 1999
International Caribbean Music Festival, Antwerp, Belgium 1996
St. Kitts Music Festival, St. Kitts 1996
with Betty Carter
Apollo Theatre, New York, NY 1994
JVC Jazz Festival/Carnegie Hall, New York, NY 1993
Jazz Ahead showcase, Brooklyn Academy of Music 1993
with Eric Essix
Atlanta Jazz Festival, with Eric Essix and Modern Man, May 25, 2019
W. C. Handy Music Festival, Muscle Shoals, AL 1993–1997
with Organ Summit (Jimmy McGriff, Joey DeFrancesco, and Reuben Wilson)
Blue Note Tour of Japan (Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuyoka) with Organ Summit 2004
with Jimmy McGriff
Jazz Standard, New York, NY 2004; Birdland, New York, NY 2003
with Other Artists
Jean Caze, Ali Cultural Arts Center, Pompano Beach, FL. May 26, 2023.
Joni Mitchell, Esperanza Spalding, Herbie Hancock, Brian Blade, Bill Frisell, and Ambrose Akinmusire,
Joni: A Portrait in Song, Massey Hall, Toronto, Canada. June 18-19, 2013.
Philip Glass, Prisoner of Love, debuted “Melodies for Saxophone,” NY Theater Workshop, 1996
Donald Byrd, *Jazz Central*, Black Entertainment Television (BET), 1995
George Faison, Tribute to Hollywood, Le Sporting Club, Monte Carlo 1999

REFERENCES

Available by request