

John Sturino

Drummer, Composer, Arranger, Educator
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WRITING ACCOLADES

Recipient of Composition Commission Grant from ISJAC (International Society of Jazz Composers & Arrangers)

Awarded a commission grant from ISJAC in April of 2020 among ten recipients for a new work to be composed and later performed at an ISJAC conference.

JEN (Jazz Education Network) Composition Contest Runner-Up

Received runner-up honors in the 2020 Jazz Education Network Composition Competition for the Graduate College division.

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Juilliard Jazz Artist Diploma Ensemble

Currently a member of the Artist Diploma Ensemble at The Juilliard School, under the direction of Ben Wolfe. This highly selective post-graduate program features one single ensemble in as the flagship ensemble of the Juilliard Jazz program.

Generations Unit Honors Ensemble

Toured Europe with the Generations Festival Unit Honors Ensemble in August 2019, led by Adrian Mears. The Unit performed in Germany and Switzerland as part of a two week tour, culminating with a four-night run at the Bird's Eye Basel Jazz Club.

Tour to China with Anna Jalkeus Group

Toured to Nanjing, China, with the Anna Jalkeus Group in June 2019. Worked with Chinese musicians in a collaborative concert combining Jalkeus's jazz-fusion-songwriter music with a traditional Chinese orchestra.

Generations Festival (Frauenfeld, Switzerland)

Selected as one of four drumset participants among a pool of international applicants. Performed nightly at the Driegg Jazz Club. Chosen at the festival as the drummer for the Generations Unit Honors Ensemble. Clinicians at the festival included Maria Schneider, Donny McCaslin, Nate Wood, Jason Lidner, Johnathan Maron, and Adrian Mears.

First United Methodist Church – DENTON, TX (Musical Director, 2017-2019)

Played Drums and served as the musical director/coordinator for a 12-piece band that rehearsed and performed original arrangements of worship songs every Sunday in Denton, Texas. I also wrote (and still write) arrangements for the ensemble.

JAS Aspen Academy Big Band

Selected as one of two drummers to play in the Jazz Aspen JAS Academy Big Band 2018, under the direction of Christian McBride. A week-long event culminating in a performance of Christian McBride's Big Band music. I also wrote an arrangement of Christian's tune "Rainbow Wheel", which was premiered at the concert with myself on vibraphone.

Finalist in the Detroit Jazz Festival J.C. Heard Drumset Competition

Selected as one of three finalist in the Detroit Jazz Festival J.C. Heard Drumset Competition in Summer 2017.

Disneyland All-American College Band

Selected as the drumset player for the 2016 Disneyland All-American College Band, under the direction of Ron McCurdy. Daily big band performances, as well as performances around the park and the opportunity to work with clinicians on a weekly basis.

One O'Clock Lab Band Tours

Toured with the One O'Clock Lab Band as the drummer for the ensemble in Australia in 2016 and the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area in 2018. Performed at the Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier, South Australia, and at Blues Alley Jazz Club in Washington D.C, among other venues.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stanford Jazz Workshop (2014-current)

Regular faculty member of the Stanford Jazz Workshop. I have taught small group rehearsals, musicianship & ear-training courses, drum musicianship masterclasses, rudimental classes, and hosted the nightly regular jam sessions at the CoHo venue as a main part of the daily camp activities.

Teaching Fellow at the University of North Texas (2017-2019)

I was a teaching fellow at the University of North Texas under the direction of Richard DeRosa. I was a teaching assistant and taught the labs for the main jazz arranging course, managing 16-20 of my own students per semester. I also directed a large ensemble as the instructor of record, and established the curriculum for a jazz vibraphone course for the freshman drumset majors in the jazz program.

Colombia, South America (2018)

Taught in Medellín, Pereira, Manizales, and Bogotá in Colombia, South America, as part of a three-week program in June of 2018. We worked closely with local young musicians of all levels and skillsets in each city and performed regular concerts for them during the three weeks.

Kenosha Jazz All-Stars (2013-2017)

Helped establish the Kenosha Jazz All-Stars along with Ken Wiele (now retired). The program featured a regularly rehearsing large ensemble comprised of students and regional professionals. This group aimed to give students from the Kenosha Unified district chance to rehearse and perform with professionals in order to give them invaluable playing experience and mentorship from older musicians.

Private Studio (2013-current)

Since the summer of 2013 I have maintained a regular private teaching studio on drumset. I more recently have had a larger online studio presence in lieu of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has brought students from Europe and Australia into my studio.

EDUCATION

Artists Diploma – The Juilliard School (New York City, NY)

- Currently Enrolled at The Juilliard School as an Artist Diploma student.
- Member of the Artist Diploma Ensemble at Juilliard, the premiere small group of the program.

Graduate Studies – University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

- Graduated Master in Music degree in Jazz Arranging and Composition from University of North Texas. Primary private studies with Rich DeRosa.
- Graduated as distinguished Masters student the Jazz Studies division.
- Awarded the Randy Taylor Jazz Arranging Scholarship for Jazz Arranging.
- Graduated with a 4.0 GPA

Undergraduate Studies – University of North Texas

- Graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in Jazz Studies with Instrumental Emphasis in Drumset. Primary studies with Ed Soph.
- Awarded the Board of Regents Chancellor's 4-Year Scholarship.
- Graduated Cum Laude and an Honors College Distinguished Scholar Award in December 2016.

Tremper High School (Kenosha, WI)

- Graduated in 2012.
- President of National Honors Society, Captain of the Science Team in 2010 and 2011, Class Treasurer.

OTHER AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS**Outstanding Graduate Student in Jazz Studies**

Chosen as the Outstanding Graduate Student in the Jazz Studies Division at the University of North Texas for the 2018-2019 school year.

Outstanding Graduate Student in Percussion

Chosen as the Outstanding Graduate Student in the Percussion Division at the University of North Texas for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mentor Fellow at Stanford Jazz Workshop

Selected to be the drumset Mentor Fellow at the Stanford Jazz Workshop for 2014 and 2015. Worked closely with Victor Lin and Peter Stoltzman on crafting an educator identity, educational tools and strategies, and general educational philosophy.

Jazz Band of America

Selected to be the drummer for the Jazz Band of America at the Music For All Festival, Spring 2012. The band rehearsed for a week in Indianapolis under the direction of John Clayton, and performed for the competing middle and high school bands.

PASIC 2010 Drumset Competition Finalist

Selected as one of two finalists in the high school jazz division to compete at the Percussive Arts Society's International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in November 2010.
