

JESSE RYAN

MUSICIAN, COMPOSER & EDUCATOR

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Toronto, Canada

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EDUCATION

Vermont College of Fine Arts

MFA Music Composition
2021-Present

Humber College

B.Mus. Contemporary Music
2013-2017

OTHER CERTIFICATION & STUDY

Orchestration and Arranging

Understudy with Juno Award-winning bassist and orchestrator Shelly Berger.
2017

Shaw Academy (Online)

Diploma in Social Media Marketing
2017

TEACHING

Humber College - Partial-Load Professor

Bachelor of Music and Certificate of Commercial Jazz Programs

Courses Taught: Private Saxophone Lessons, Saxophone Master Class, Second Year, Music Theory, Afro-Caribbean Jazz Ensemble.
2022-Present

Canada Christian College - Adjunct Faculty

Bachelor of Sacred Music Program

Courses Taught: Private Saxophone Lessons, Music Theory, Ear Training, Music Technology, Artistic Development.

I developed a contemporary music curriculum to support the introduction of a new contemporary music stream in 2019.
2017-2021

Malvern Music and Arts Academy - Arts Education Coordinator/Tutor

Teaching saxophone, flute, piano, and guitar to students of mixed ages.
2017-2019

AWARDS

JUNO Award Nominee

Jazz Album of the Year: Solo
Jesse Ryan, Bridges
2022

Emerging Jazz Artist Award

Toronto Arts Foundation
2020

Suyun Kim Memorial Award

Humber College
2014 & 2016

Dave Stillwell Arranging Award

Humber College
2015

LECTURES

York University, First Year Music Seminar

Beyond Belafonte; Reframing Calypso's History as Music for Social Change.
February 2024

York University, Graduate Music Student Association

Beyond Belafonte; Reframing Calypso's History as Music for Social Change.
October 2023

ORGANIZATIONS

Kaiso Street Society

Founder & Director
2023 - Present

Toronto Arts Foundation

Board Member
2021 - Present

TEACHING

T-Rox Music Academy - Music Tutor

Teaching saxophone, flute, and piano to students of mixed ages.

2015-2018

Danforth Collegiate & Tech. Institute - Assistant Teacher Co-up

Teaching saxophone, and flute, and assisted music teacher during ensemble rehearsals.

Jan-April 2015

PERFORMANCES WITH

- Jazzmeia Horn and Her Noble Force, USA (Jazz)
- KUNÉ Canada's Global Orchestra (World, Jazz-Fusion)
- Sophie Lukacs, Montreal (World Fusion)
- Larnell Lewis Band (Jazz Fusion)
- Ahmed Mitchel Group (Afro-Cuban Jazz Ensemble)
- Raoul & The Big Time (Blues)
- Jojo Bowden Project (Jazz Fusion)
- Joy Lapps Group (Afro-Caribbean Jazz Fusion)
- Kalabash (Afro-Caribbean Jazz)
- Daniel Barnes Trio (Jazz)
- Rachel Therrien (Afro-Cuban Jazz Ensemble)

I have worked with these artists as a saxophonist and flutist performing across Toronto, Ontario, and Québec at various clubs and festivals including; Harbourfront Centre, Koener Hall, The Rex, Jazz Bistro, Lula Lounge, Lula World Festival, Toronto Jazz Festival, Kensington Market Jazz Festival, Markham Jazz Festival, Mundo Kanaval etc.

DISCOGRAPHY

LEADER

Bridges, LP Album (2020) **Juno Nominee 2022**

The Night Before She Passed
Single Release (2022)

SIDE-MAN

- Choices, William Carn (2023) **Jazz FM Best Albums of 2023**
- Bamako, Sophie Lukacs (2023)
- Black To The Roots, Jojo Bowden (2022)
- Girl In The Yard, Joy Lapps-Lewis (2022)
- Baby This, Baby That (EP), She's Funny That Way (2022)
- You Are The Light and The Way, Alex Bird (2021)
Juno Nominee 2022
- Illusion, Elena Rawlins (2017)
- Element 79, Karen Jewels (2016)
- Stay Right Here, Anne Ugobor (2015)

ORGANIZATIONS

JAZZ.FM91 Alumni Association

Committee Member

2023 - Present

iDream Media Award

Working Board Member

2023 - Present

COMPOSITION

Bridges Project

Original music for an eclectic quintet that bridges jazz and Afro-Caribbean traditions - A true celebration of the cultural, rhythmic, and expressive connections between North America and the islands of the Caribbean.

Celestial Fix: "The Virtues Project"

A three-part suite for jazz quartet, string quartet, and Chorale, commissioned by the Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

Kaiso Street Collective:

The Music of the Mighty Bomber.

Eighty original arrangements of the music calypso veteran Clifton Ryan, The Mighty Bomber; re-imagined through the lens of modern jazz nonet.

STRING & HORN ARRANGEMENTS/ PRODUCTION

Black To The Roots
Jojo Bowden (2022)

Gospel of Romance,
Stephen John (2019)

Illusion
Elena Rawlins (2017)

More Than Friends
Aidan Farrell (2017)

Element 79
Karen Jewels (2016)

Stay Right Here
Anne Ugobor (2015)

The Worship Experience
Jide Adeyode (2014)

SIDE-MAN

- The Worship Experience, Jide Adeyode (2014)
- Meant To Be, Humber Studio Jazz Ensemble (2016)
- Fat Cat, Humber Studio Jazz Ensemble feat. Donny McCaslin (2016)
- New Standards V18: Don't Look Over Your Shoulder, Humber College Annual Student Ensemble Recordings, (2016)

RESEARCH

Calypso Beyond Belafonte; Reframing Calypso's History as Music for Social Change.

Exploring the ethos of Calypso, as music for social change and the mechanism that the dispossessed descendants of the African slaves in Trinidad and Tobago used to form a sense of identity, cooperate, resist, and thrive.

2023 - Present

Fête é Faith; The Intersection of Calypso Traditions and Religion.

Exploring how the collision of Afro-centric spirituality and religious practices with Euro-centric Christianity fuelled the development of Calypso and Carnival traditions; the role of the Catholic church, and phenomenological themes of control, hope, and identity.

Calypso Virtuosos; Improvisation Traditions Within Calypso

Exploring the improvisational approaches of prominent recorded soloists and session musicians during the 1920s through the 80's; with harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic analysis. Highlighting the connections between calypso and jazz traditions.

Calypso Arranging

A survey of arranging styles, approaches, and conventions of prominent arrangers during the 1920s through the 80's; Highlighting the connections between calypso and jazz traditions.

CONDUCTING

Conducted the Matt Lagan Special Project for jazz and chamber orchestra; A tribute to the Michael Brecker Quintet project, Wide Angles. 2016

SKILLS

Music Composition
Orchestration
Research
Graphic Design
Social Media Management

INTERESTS

Caribbean Culture & History
Podcasting
Arts Advocacy
Ethics & Moral Theory
Apologetics
Poetry
Art & Design
Philosophy
Phenomenology

REFERENCES

Larnell Lewis
Drummer, Clinician, Producer
email: larnelllewismusic@gmail.com

Jon Gordon
Saxophonist, Composer, Educator
email: jongordonmusic1@gmail.com

Roberto Occhipinti
Bassist, Composer, Producer
email: roberto@modicamusic.com