

Jonathan Greenstein
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts, UW-Madison 2017- 2020

*“Astral Fire: A Meditation Spiritual Jazz
As Modeled by Five Saxophone Players 1969-1979”*

Spiritual jazz has had a major impact on jazz music, and especially on young artists working in jazz today. Yet, musicians, scholars, and critics have struggled to arrive at a consensus on its definition. For some, spiritual jazz is a meaningful offshoot of modal jazz, promoted by Impulse! and smaller, independent record-labels. For others, it is a style characterized by an overloaded context and primitive, pentatonic meandering. Given these conflicting assertions, this research uses the disciplinary lens’ of jazz analysis, theory, and history to identify common features that link a select group of spiritual jazz representatives. To better define the style’s aesthetic in its most formative decade, this research will analyze the performance practices of five saxophone players: Gary Bartz, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Harper, Bennie Maupin, and John Gilmore.

Master of Arts, City College of New York 2013-2016

Bachelor of Music, Berklee College of Music 2007-2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, UW-Madison 2017-2019

- Teaching the Contemporary Jazz Ensemble- developing the curriculum and lesson plans for a high-level ensemble focusing on music written in the past 25 years as well as student compositions. Providing effective teaching, covering the skills, tools, and artistry necessary to perform Jazz music in today’s climate.
- Teaching Jazz Theory & Composition- Following the syllabus developed by Dr. Johannes Wallmann while creating own lesson plans. Creating and grading bi-weekly writing assignments as well as weekly analysis. Instigating high level in-class discussions weekly. Online integration through CANVAS.
- Office Hours- weekly availability to any student in the program. Unofficial advising by assisting students with class subjects, general musicianship, academic and personal issues, as well as providing private instruction and trying to answer life questions.

Faculty, The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Milwaukee

2018-2019

- Jazz Honors Program- Teaching in a high-level, by audition only, selective program at the conservatory. Including a combo and private saxophone students.
- Adult Combos- Teaching several adult combos including writing arrangements specific for the ensembles, on and off campus performances.
- Private studio- Open to saxophone students from beginner level to professionals.

Teaching Assistant, City University of New York

2013-2015

- Teaching Repertoire Ensembles- Teaching three simultaneous Repertoire Ensembles with Steve Wilson, the program director. Providing high quality instruction over two weekly meetings. Teaching the required repertoire by ear and through written lead sheets, as well as rehearsing the material, discussing issues of nuance in the music and teaching improvisation and band technique.

Private Studio

Established 2004

- Teaching All Levels of Saxophone Playing- Past students have graduated to study at the Thelonious Monk Institute at UCLA, Berklee College of Music, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Manhattan School of Music, University of Colorado Boulder, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee. Many have received high scholarships or awards.

GUEST ARTIST / CLINICAN

- **The Center for Jazz Studies at the Israeli Conservatory** 2015-2018
Teaching various Jazz ensembles at the center's college level program which holds an accreditation agreement with the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York City.
- **Thelma Yellin High school for the Arts** 2016
Instructing ensembles, presenting master classes and teaching private lessons as an international guest artist in Israel's most selective high school Jazz program's yearly Jazz camp and throughout the school year.
- **Horlick High School Jazz festival** 2019
Featured guest artist for the festival's main performance event. Clinics were given during the day for participating high school and middle school big bands.

REFERENCES

Dr. Johannes Wallmann – Wallmann@wisc.edu (608) 263-1900
*John and Carolyn Peterson Chair in Jazz Studies, Mead-Witter School of Music,
University of Wisconsin, Madison.*

Russ Johnson – Russjohnsontpt@gmail.com (917) 751-7786
Associate Professor – Jazz, Music Department, University of Wisconsin, Parkside

Matan Chapnitzky – Matan@icm.org.il +972 3-5460524
Director of Academic Jazz Studies, Israeli Conservatory of Music, Tel Aviv.

Rachel Fritz – rfrtiz@wcmusic.org (414) 276-5760
Chief Operations Officer, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Milwaukee.

Dr. Les Thimmig – lthimmig@wisc.edu (608) 263-1900
*Doctoral Advisor, Professor of Saxophone, Mead-Witter School of Music, University of
Wisconsin, Madison.*

VIDEO LINKS

Live performances: <https://youtu.be/t5rvetQeZ9o> <https://youtu.be/JeRDFyj2oso>
<https://youtu.be/s5aSGRzaLug>

Lecture Recital: <https://youtu.be/p3NDWHst17I>

AUDIO

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3e0q5wwV2YU5IUWqazW7F1?si=8a49be9d680a4e9f>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1w7kqPjFpGCDgjGcqTmTfx?si=b4d9b12308d144f3>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4m4abB2YLRGK6Zu55FBf4y?si=a48edb8b6cff4cba>

Big Band:

<https://soundcloud.com/jonathangreenstein/jg-big-band-pentabundle-fleeting/s-5RWxxDtXeGO?si=38abc950d1fc4f35813cf2ef5f5fb676>

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Works in Progress

CELESTIAL KNOWLEDGE (TAKES MANY FORMS)

Directly inspired by my doctoral work and living by lake Michigan, where for the first time in my life the water was in the east. This is an album of musical fragments weaved together to create a tapestry of beats, soulful melodies, and spiritual musings. Pulling together from 70s spiritual jazz and the club jazz scene from the late 90s to create something new, where the listener does not know when the production ends and the playing starts, but they can't stop listening either way.

WORLDWIDE UPTOWN

A personal twist on the modern NYC uptown sound, this record draws inspiration from the jazz resurgence in the 90s on smaller labels like Criss Cross, Fresh Sound, and Steeplechase. The band mimics Joe Henderson's Mode For Joe and features a heavily arranged, straight ahead style.

REVISITING DARKNESS

A set of music composed from 2010 through 2015, then shelved, and now resurfacing. A musical representation of three levels of darkness – a lot of time being awake at night or before sun rise in a lot of underground jazz basements and the NYC subway, “dark” harmonic colors, and a dark place mentally in relation to how I felt about the music and myself which led me to shelve the music at the time, unjustly so.

MOOD ETERNAL

An organ trio which evolved naturally while playing a weekly gig at an unlikely venue. Playing music by Pharoah Sanders, Alice Coltrane, and such luminaries and connecting those sound with originals inspired by Joshua Redman's Moodswing and similar early 90s records.

VOL I-IV (REMASTERED DELUXE EDITION)

A remastered, deluxe printing of my 4 EPs on Rabbit Rabbit Rabbit Records. Includes alternate takes, outtakes, and bonus tracks.

Recent Recordings as A Bandleader

VOL I (2016)

VOL II (2017)

VOL III (2019)

VOL IV (DELAYED DUE TO COVID-19)

A project of four EPs released on Rabbit Rabbit Rabbit Records, reconnecting to the spontaneous, live in the studio roots of Jazz. Licensed for print in Japan through Disk Union.

“setting a course well worth following... aptly demonstrating the composer's philosophy of understatement as a definite strength.” – Phillip Woolever, All About Jazz

"Vol II is an album that will take you on a journey, and act as a canvas that can inspire stories and reflection ... This tune wouldn't be out of place in a jazz festival," - Harriet Davis, Jazz Views.

"An honestly straightforward manner with a minimum of fuss... Each track creates an inviting and contemplative mood ... It's a contemporary mode of cool jazz" - Geno Thackara, All About Jazz

“makes a statement through atmosphere and groove.” - Will Layman, Popmatters

LIKE SOMEONE IN LOVE, A MIXTAPE (2014)

A mixtape of varied studio and live material. The studio section presents a trio with Linda Oh and Justin Brown. The live recording has Greenstein's steady band mates in New York City.

LIVE VIDEO RECORDING – “THE DREAM BAND SESSION” (2013)

A video recording of recent material in quintet format featuring Gilad Hekselman, Victor Gould, Linda Oh and Justin Brown. Shot live at HighBreed Music in New York City.

THINKING (2011)

Featuring Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition winner and Berklee College of Music professor Darren Barrett. Released by the famous Spanish label Fresh Sound New Talent.

Recent Select Performances

- Performances with MacArthur “Genius” Grant recipient Miguel Zenon, Grammy Award Winner Terri Lynn Carrington, Grammy Award Winner Brian Lynch, Winner of the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition Jazzmeia Horn, Linda Oh (Pat Metheny), Justin Brown (Ambrose Akinmusire, Thundercat), Shai Maestro, and Omer Avital among others.
- International Exposure Jazz & World Festival (Jerusalem, 2013, 2015), Bay View Jazz Festival (2017,2018), Ottawa Jazz Festival (2014), Red Sea Jazz Festival (2016), Tel Aviv Jazz Festival (feat. Ronnie Cuber, 2012), The Jerusalem Festival, Holon's Woman Festival (feat. Judi Silvano, 2012), The MoMA NYC (New Year's Eve Gala, 2015), Macau Jazz Festival (2014), Summerfest Jazz Day (2017, 2018), Platteville Jazz Festival (2018), Fox Valley Jazz Festival (2019), Fresh Coast Jazz Festival (2019), The Blue Note, Small's Jazz Club, Fat Cat, Matt Garrison's Shapeshifter Lab, The Jazz Estate, Winter's, Richard Bona's Club Bonafide, Minton's, countless others.

- Rockwood Music Hall Residency - monthly show in NYC starting August 2014 through Dec 2015. Band members included Gilad Hekselman, Takuya Kuroda (Blue Note Recording artist), James Francies (Pat Metheny, The Roots), Takeshi Ohbayashi (Jose James), Jonathan Pinson (Kamasi Washington), Joshua Crumbly (Kamasi Washington, Terence Blanchard), Mark Whitfield Jr (Kenny Garrett), Michael King (Dee Dee Bridgewater, Theo Croker) and others.
- Milwaukee – member of several groups with residencies at clubs in the city, including The Scott Napoli Quartet, The Paul Spencer Band, Eric Jacobson’s Woody Shaw Tribute, The Kevin Hayden Band, Jamie Breiwick’s Dreamland project (the music of Thelonious Monk), MKE Jazz Visions sponsored by Summerfest, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music’s Faculty band We Six.

Recent Recordings as A Sideman

Ronen Shmueli, Song for My Cousin (Independent, 2020)
 Madjin Bea, Be Right Back, East Wave (In Good Company, 2020)
 Javier Santiago, Aries Peace, untitled new project (2019)
 Field Report, Break Light Red Tide (Felleskap Records, 2019)
 Lex Allen, untitled new project (2019)
 Hal Leonard Publishing Company, New Real Book Playalongs (Hal Leonard, 2019)
 Abbey Jeanne, Music Box Dancer (Hi-Fi Records, 2018)
 Javier Santiago, Verses (feat Proper-T & Aymna), Verses (Independent, 2018)
 Michael Brennis, Plutonium (Independent, 2018)
 Olu Bliss, 747 (djin remix), Traveling Bliss (Independent, 2017)
 Hyejin Jo, Lone Traveler (Mirrorball Korea, 2015)
 The NYC Improv Project, Don’t Mind, Melting Point (MFA Records Presents, 2015)