

Ben Turner (b. 1997) is a guitarist, educator, and composer, currently based in Michigan. He is native of the Southern New Jersey suburbs of Philadelphia where he became exposed to the vast legacy of Black American Music through mentors such as saxophonist Larry McKenna and bassist Anthony Tidd. He received his Bachelor's (BM) Degree in Jazz Studies at Temple University under the tutelage of Terell Stafford, Tim Warfield, Dick Oatts, and Peter Bernstein. Ben recently completed a Master's (MM) degree in Jazz Studies as a graduate assistant at Michigan State University under the tutelage of Randy Napoleon, Rodney Whitaker, Randy Gillespie, and Michael Dease. He has played with and received on the bandstand mentorship from musicians such as Mike Boone, Matthew Parrish, Byron Landham, Bill Goodwin, Dwight Adams, Paul Keller, Sean Dobbins, Rick Roe, Behn Gillece, and Marcus Elliot. Ben is a Geri Allen Fellow (2023 - 2024), and a member of the Carr Center's Gathering Orchestra led by Rodney Whitaker. He has been selected for prestigious programs such as Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, JAS Academy, and the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Jazz Orchestra, in addition to receiving awards from Downbeat Magazine, the BMI Foundation, and the ASCAP Foundation as a performer and composer. Ben is passionate about education, having maintained a private studio for nearly ten years. Ben has taught for organizations such as COTA, MSU Community Music School, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, in addition to serving as adjunct instructor of jazz guitar at Interlochen Arts Academy for the 2022 - 2023 school year.