

Ben Turner

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Education

MM in Jazz Studies - Guitar

Michigan State University - College of Music - May 2023

BM in Jazz Studies Performance - Guitar

Temple University - Boyer College of Music - May 2020

Teachers and Mentors: Randy Napoleon, Rodney Whitaker, Michael Dease, Randy Gillespie, Peter Bernstein, Terell Stafford, Tim Warfield, Bill Goodwin, Larry McKenna, Dick Oatts, David Wong, Jesse van Ruller, Matthew Parrish

University Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Guitar

Michigan State University - College of Music

2021 - 2023

- Teach and design syllabi for Beginning Jazz Improvisation I and II (MUS 230/231)
- Teach non-major jazz guitar lessons
- Lead, organize, and compose for a small ensemble of undergraduate students
- Participate in and compose for a small ensemble of graduate students

Private + Preparatory Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor of Jazz Guitar

Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI

2022 - 2023

- conducted a two day residency in May 2023

Substitute Guitar Faculty

Okemos Music Academy, Okemos, MI

2023

MSU Community Music School - Detroit, Detroit, MI

2021 - 2022

Guitar Instructor

Valotta Studios, Chester Springs, PA

2020 - 2021

Teaching Assistant

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Summer Jazz Academy, New York, NY

2019 - 2022

Celebration of the Arts Inc. COTA CampJazz, Delaware Water Gap, PA

2019

- Assist faculty in small/large ensemble rehearsals and private/group lessons
- Host jam sessions and listening sessions
- Logistical duties (printing music, helping with technology, ushering recitals, etc.)
- Overnight counselor duties
- Foster positive relationships with students (ages 12 - 18)

Adjudicator

MSBOA District 8 Jazz Festival, Mason, MI

2023

Performances:

As a Leader:

Ben Turner Quartet at Cliff Bells (Detroit, MI)	February 2023
Ben Turner Organ Trio featuring Walter Blanding, at the Robin Theatre (Lansing, MI)	December 2022
Ben Turner Quartet at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival (East Lansing, MI)	June 2022
Ben Turner Organ Trio featuring Larry McKenna, at Chris' Jazz Cafe (Philadelphia, PA)	May 2022
Ben Turner Quartet at Chris' Jazz Cafe (Philadelphia, PA)	October 2021
Ben Turner Organ Trio at Temple University's Rite of Swing Jazz Cafe (Philadelphia, PA)	October 2019
Ben Turner Quartet at the Pinelands Jazz Festival (Medford, NJ)	June 2019

As a Sideman:

Rodney Whitaker Northern Michigan Tour (via concert promoter Tim Scully)	July 2023
Melissa Morgan Quartet at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival (East Lansing, MI)	June 2023
Michael Dease Quintet at UrbanBeat (Lansing, MI)	April 2023
Michigan State University Professors of Jazz at Murray Hall (East Lansing, MI)	February 2023
Sean Dobbins Organ Quartet at Cliff Bells (Detroit, MI)	December 2022
Rick Roe Quartet at the Blue Llama Jazz Club (Ann Arbor, MI)	November 2022
Rodney Whitaker Quartet featuring Carmen Lundy at the Carr Center (Detroit, MI)	October 2022
Marcus Elliot Quintet at the Blue Llama Jazz Club (Ann Arbor, MI)	September 2022
Dwight Adams Quintet featuring Ali Jackson at the Blue Llama Jazz Club (Ann Arbor, MI)	September 2022
MSU Jazz Orchestra I at the Detroit Jazz Festival (Detroit, MI)	September 2022
Rockelle Whitaker Northern Michigan Tour (via concert promoter Tim Scully)	July 2022
Dan Wilkins Quartet featuring Bill Goodwin at Domaci (Allentown, PA)	July 2022
Byron Landham Quartet at Barbara's House (Titusville, NJ)	June 2022
Michael Dease Quartet at GR Noir (Grand Rapids, MI)	May 2022
Special Guest with the US Army Blues Band at Garfield High School (Woodbridge, VA)	May 2022
Rodney Whitaker Sextet at the CUBE (Detroit, MI)	March 2022
Skyler Hagner Nonet at the Guilford Performing Arts Festival (Guilford, CT)	September 2021
Joe Block Quartet at Chris' Jazz Cafe (Philadelphia, PA)	June 2021
Matthew Parrish Trio at Bump Jazz Productions (Jenkintown, PA)	May 2021
Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Jazz Orchestra at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival (Rockville, MD)	February 2020
All Star Vibe Jam Session House Rhythm Section featuring Behn Gillece, Stefon Harris, Tony Miceli, and Warren Wolf at Langosta Lounge (Asbury Park, NJ)	January 2020
Byron Landham Quartet at the Candlelight Lounge (Trenton, NJ)	November 2019
Luke Carlos O'Reilly Group hosts the Jazz Summit Jam Session at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia, PA)	October 2019
Mike Boone's Jam Session House Band featuring Justin Faulkner at Heritage (Philadelphia, PA)	September 2019
Philadelphia Ambassador Big Band featuring Jaleel Shaw at the Philadelphia Clef Club of Jazz and the Performing Arts (Philadelphia, PA)	April 2019
Telluride Student All-Stars Jazz Ensemble at the Telluride Jazz Festival (Telluride, CO)	August 2018

Discography

Invisible Cities - Humanity, Memory & Decay: Skyler Hagner Nonet: 2022

Constant Renaissance: Vince Mendoza & the Temple University Studio Orchestra: 2019

Arranging, Composition, and Transcription

“Appreciation” composed and arranged for Michael Dease’s upcoming recording on Posi-Tone Records: 2023

“Welcome Home” composed by Kurt Rosenwinkel, arranged for the Philadelphia Jazz Ambassador Big Band featuring Kurt Rosenwinkel at Chris’ Jazz Cafe (Philadelphia, PA): 2022

“For The Messenger” composed and arranged for big band, performed and recorded by the U.S. Army Blues Band: 2022

Transcriber for Michael Mwenso and the Shakes: 2022 - 2023

Assistant Music Transcriber at Kevin Lynch Music Services: 2021 - 2022

Awards and Honors

Geri Allen Fellow and a member of the Gathering Orchestra, led by Rodney Whitaker: 2023 - 2024

ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award: 2023

Betty Carter’s Jazz Ahead (Washington, D.C.): 2018, 2022

BMI Future Jazz Master Award (a first-ever tie with vocalist and songwriter Cler Diaz): 2022

Jack Rudin Jazz Championship with MSU Jazz Orchestra I (New York City, NY): 2022

- First Place
- Outstanding Rhythm Section

U.S. Army Blues Solo Competition, Collegiate Division: 2022

JAS Academy (Aspen, CO): 2020

Downbeat Award for Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance: 2020

GRAMMY Nomination in Best Instrumental Composition and Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella: 2020

- Constant Renaissance: Vince Mendoza & the Temple University Studio Orchestra

Jack Rudin Jazz Championship with the Temple University Jazz Band (New York City, NY): 2020

- First Place
- Outstanding Rhythm Section

YoungArts Merit Award in Jazz Guitar: 2016

References

Randy Napoleon, Associate Professor of Jazz Guitar & Associate Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University

- napoleo6@msu.edu, (917) 535-4577

Michael Dease, Professor of Jazz Trombone at Michigan State University

- mdease@msu.edu, (917) 543-2960

Joshua Lawrence, Director of Jazz Studies at Interlochen Arts Academy

- joshua.lawrence@interlochen.org, (215) 626-5763