

# Benjamin M. Geyer

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30118

## EDUCATION

**University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY, 2016

- Ph.D. in Music Theory
- Dissertation: *Meter, Phrase, and Form in the Compositions of Maria Schneider*

**Purchase College**, State University of New York, Purchase, NY, 2009

- Master of Music in Jazz Studies
- Thesis: *Thelonious Monk's Importance to the Bebop Movement Despite Stylistic Differences*
- Jazz piano study with Hal Galper

**University of Miami**, Coral Gables, FL, 2007

- Bachelor of Music in Studio Music and Jazz
- Magna Cum Laude with General University Honors
- Senior Thesis: *East of Eden Suite: A Musical Composition and Theoretical Analysis*
- Classical piano study with Ivan Davis, 2003–2005

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Collegiate Posts:

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA: Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Director of Jazz Studies, 2017–present

- Music Theory 1, 2, 3, and 4 (developed course packs for music theory curriculum)
- Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Composition & Arranging, Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Recital, Jazz Combo
- Independent Study in Music and Meaning

Oberlin College Conservatory, Oberlin, OH: Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Theory, 2016–2017

Oberlin College Conservatory, Oberlin, OH: Visiting Instructor of Music Theory, 2014–2016

- Music Theory 1, 3, 4, and “Intensive” Theory 1
- Aural Skills 1, 2, and 3
- Musical Studies Senior Seminar: Capstone research practicum for college majors

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY: Teaching Assistant, Music Theory and Aural Skills, 2012–2014

- Music Theory 1 and 2
- Aural Skills 3 and 4

### Adjunct Positions:

Centre College, Danville, KY: Visiting Instructor of Music, Jazz Piano, 2013–2014

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA: Adjunct Lecturer, Jazz Piano, 2011

Nashua Community College, Nashua, NH: Adjunct Professor, Music Appreciation, 2011

### Studio Teaching:

Central Music Academy, Lexington, KY, 2014

Music's Cool Academy of Music, Londonderry, NH, 2010–2011

Private Piano Studio, Nashua, NH, 2002–2003 and 2009–2011

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- “Maria Schneider’s Forms: Norms and Deviations in a Contemporary Jazz Corpus,” *Journal of Music Theory*, Spring 2019.
- “Performance Practice in Scheme-Based Jazz.” Book chapter in A-R Editions Online Anthology. Under contract and submitted.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

### “Deviational Phrase Types in the Compositions of Maria Schneider”

- Music Theory Southeast, Columbia, SC, March, 2018
- Research on Contemporary Composers Conference, Dahlonga, GA, December, 2017

“Prolongation in Jazz: A Skeptical View,” Society for Music Theory, St. Louis, October, 2015

### “All Things Being Equal: The Problem of Reduction in Second Practice Jazz”

- Jazz Interest Group Meeting, Invited presentation, Society for Music Theory, November, 2014
- International Conference on Analytical Approaches to World Music, London, July, 2014
- Student Conference on *Approaches to Analysis and Interpretation*, Cincinnati, March, 2014
- Graduate Theory Association Symposium, Indiana University, February 22, 2014

### “A New Level: Elevating Swing Research Above the Eighth-Note”

- Graduate Theory Association Symposium, Indiana University, February 16, 2013
- Music Theory Forum, Florida State University, January 19, 2013

## SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

*Professional engagements with Winard Harper, Barry Ries, Avery Sharpe, Marion Covings, Peter Dominguez, Terence Harper, Ian Froman, Michael Feinberg, and Andre Rice; performances in New York (Kitano, Cutting Room, Tea Lounge), Shanghai (JZ Club), Cleveland (Bop Stop), and Boston (Liby Pad, Middle East), and Atlanta (Velvet note, Café 290); ongoing monthly residency at Samba Loca, Carrollton, GA.*

### As Leader or Music Director:

The Ben Geyer Trio, 2012 and 2016–present  
 The Ben Geyer Quartet, regular performances, 2013  
 Base-2, duo with saxophonist Robbyn Tongue, 2011  
 The Ben Geyer Sextet, 2008–2010  
 The Geyer/Feld Duo, with vocalist Matthew Bryan Feld, 2009–2010  
 The Gate, Cover Band, 2007–2010

### As Ensemble Member:

Michael Feinberg Quartet, Atlanta, GA, 2018  
 University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble, Lexington, KY, 2014; China tour, June, 2014  
 The Tweak, Jazz Fusion Band, Lexington, KY, 2014  
 Carlos Espinosa D.M.A. Recitals, Lexington Kentucky, November, 2013 and April, 2014  
 Jessie Laine Powell, Jazz Vocalist, Lexington, KY, 2012–2013  
 Chris Burbank, Jazz Trumpeter, Bedford, NH, 2009–2012  
 Melodego, Soul Band, Boston, MA, 2006–2011  
 Carole Leigh, Jazz Vocalist, New York, 2008–2009  
 The Marty Isenberg Big Band, New York, NY, 2009  
 Ellee, Neo-Soul Vocalist, New York, NY, 2009  
 Jazz Clinic with Stjepko Gut, Timberlane Regional High School, Plaistow, NH, 2009  
 Funkanima, Funk-Fusion Band, Andover, MA, 2007  
 Andrew Vait Project, Rock Band, Miami, FL and New York, NY, 2007 and 2010

Plymouth State College Twentieth Century Piano Festival, Plymouth, NH, 2001–2002

**As Contractor:**

Norwegian Cruise Lines, Showband Pianist, five contracts, 2007–2012  
 Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA, Starlight Orchestra, big band, 2008  
 Galaxy Entertainment, Riverwind Casino, Norman, OK, “Cirque”-style show, 2007

**Discography:**

*Duke Ellington: The Sacred Concert*, American Spiritual Ensemble with Kentucky Jazz Repertory Orchestra (Arranger), 2019  
*The Acadian Orogeny*, The Ben Geyer Trio, 2018  
*The Narrative*, The Ben Geyer Sextet, 2010  
*Darbuka in the Wocket*, One Hand Clapping, 2003

**SELECTED COMPOSITION AND ARRANGEMENT EXPERIENCE**

**The Music of Duke Ellington**, seven arrangements

- American Spiritual Ensemble with the Barcelona Jazz Orchestra, Festival de la Porta Ferrada and Festival Aste Nagusia, Spain, 2013
- American Spiritual Ensemble with the Kentucky Jazz Repertory Orchestra, two concerts, 2012

**Finger Paint**, incidental music for original play, New York City International Fringe Festival, 2009

**The Slip**, three movements for dancers and The Ben Geyer Sextet, composed in collaboration with choreographer Annie Now; premiered at The Tea Lounge, Brooklyn, July, 2009; included on *The Narrative*

**East of Eden Suite**, senior thesis project; premiered by the Ben Geyer Sextet at the Cutting Room, Manhattan, November, 2008; included on *The Narrative*

**PROFESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTION**

“Christmas Morn,” piano accompaniment, 2011  
 “Adon Olam,” transcription & arrangement, 2010  
 “You Go To My Head” as performed by pianist Ran Blake, 2010  
*Smokey Music*, musical comedy, 2008

**SERVICE**

Graduate Programs Committee, 2018–present (Chair, Academic Year 2019)  
 Faculty Senate, 2018–present  
 Music Department Committees: Scholarship and Recruitment; Academic Programs (Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies subcommittees)  
 Organized Sunbelt Jazz Festival with Reginald Chapman, Guest Artist, March, 2018  
 Organized Spring Jazz Ensemble Recruiting Tour, May, 2018  
 Jazz Interest Group Chair, Society for Music Theory, 2016–2018  
 Oberlin College Conservatory, Teaching Substitute for Jay Ashby in Jazz Aural Skills and Arranging, and for Bobby Ferrazza in Jazz Theory, 2016  
 Co-author, with Keith Waters, of a jazz chord symbol style guide for adoption by *Music Theory Spectrum* and other academic journals, 2015  
 Marketing review, *Aural Skills in Context*, Evan Jones and Matthew Shaftel, Oxford University Press, 2013  
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA: Jazz in July, Piano Faculty, 2012  
 Rivier College, Nashua, NH: Vocal Coach, 2010–2011  
 Rivier College, Nashua, NH: Occasional guest lectures, 2009–2011  
 Ancillary author for Henry Martin and Keith Waters, *Jazz: The First 100 Years, Third Edition*, 2010  
 Member of Society for Music Theory, Analytical Approaches to World Music, and Music Theory Midwest

## HONORS

Research Materials Funding, University of Kentucky Friends of Music, 2015  
 Kentucky Opportunity Fellowship, stipend plus full tuition, 2011–2012  
 Merit Scholarship, Purchase College, 2007–2009  
 University of Miami Honors Program, 2003–2007  
 Constance Weldon Scholarship for Outstanding Musical and Academic Performance, 2003–2007  
 University of Miami Dean’s List (six semesters)  
 University of Miami Provost’s Honor Roll (two semesters)

## REVIEWS

“A beautiful discovery” —Eddie Bernard, *Le blog de jazznicknames*  
 “Shows aural flexibility, and a naturally beautiful interplay among three stellar musicians” —Debbie Burke  
 “Geyer’s touch on the piano is a subtle intensity; he commands an introspective tone that has energy, but never heavy handed or uncontrolled.” —Sylvannia Garutch, *The Jazz Word*  
 “All three players generate sublime energy and substantive tone.” —Stamish Malcuss, *Jazz Sensibilities*  
 “Geyer has created a musical statement of depth and perpetuity with *The Acadian Orogeny*.” —Geannine Reid, *All About Jazz*  
 “[Geyer’s] attention to the smallest detail is stunning, and his effortless way of conveying those ideas takes the listener deeper into the message of the music.” —Elberton Cisnero, *5 Finger Review*  
 “Beautifully conceived pieces that speak a language of serenity and introspection, while sparking thought provoking tranquility.” —Brice Boorman, *Chalked Up Reviews*

## MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Blog Post: Sound Meets Sound by Meg Wilhoite  
 “Community Voice,” WBBO, March and October, 2018; April, 2019  
 Simon Rios, “Nashua Pianist Working to Blaze His Own Bright Musical Path,” *The New Hampshire Union Leader*, 2012  
 “The Beat,” WSMN Radio, 2012  
 “The Nashua Hour with Alderman Mark Cookson,” WSMN Radio, 2010  
 “Art in Action,” WSMN Radio, 2010  
 “Word of Mouth,” New Hampshire Public Radio, 2010  
 Jen O’Callahagn, “Composer Explores Movement In ‘The Narrative,’” *The Nashua Telegraph*, 2010  
 Scott Yanow, Review, *Los Angeles Jazz Scene*, 2010  
*Hot House*, album listing, 2010  
 AllAboutJazz.com Daily Video, 2010  
 Michael Witthaus, “Ben Geyer—Down to a Science: Sextet’s debut album *The Narrative* brings stories to jazz,” *The Hippo Press*, 2009  
 E-TV, Nashua, NH, Airing of Ben Geyer Sextet live concert, 2009  
 “Art in Action,” WSMN Radio, 2009  
 Melanie Plenda, “Nashua Native Adds Some Jazz To Summer Concerts,” *The Nashua Telegraph*, 2009  
 Dana Unger, “Two Sides of the Coin: Pianist Finds Fulfillment in the Formal and the Fun,” *The Hippo Press*, 2009  
 AllAboutJazz.com Jazz Download of the Day, 2008