

Joshua W. Coutts

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Education

Master of Music in Modern American Music Performance, 2016

Longy School of Music of Bard College, Cambridge, MA

Cumulative GPA – 3.99

Primary concentration: Jazz and classical guitar performance

Secondary concentration: Ensemble coaching, Lydian chromatic concept, and composition

Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Jazz, 2014

University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL

Cumulative GPA – 3.91

The Ohio State University, Columbus OH

Jazz Studies Major, Attended 2009

Calhoun Community College, Decatur AL

Attended 2005-2007

Professional Experience

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

2022 – Present

- Maintain a studio for private guitar lessons for majors and non majors at various ability levels
- Provide students with appropriate exercises and repertoire to better their technique and musicianship
- Teach students how to theoretically analyze repertoire they are working on to better understand the music and if applicable improvise more effectively
- Encourage students to think critically, communicate effectively, and act professionally in rehearsal, performance, and other musical settings
- Mentor students on continuing education and provide career advice in the ever changing field of music performance, composition, education, and production
- Compose, arrange, and perform music for various University functions and faculty showcases with the faculty jazz combo and in other settings such as solo guitar and piano and guitar duo

Alabama A&M University

2017 – Present

- Maintain a studio for private guitar lessons for majors and non majors at various ability levels in jazz and classical styles
- Provide students with appropriate exercises and repertoire to better their technique
- Teach Music Appreciation sections as needed

Calhoun Community College

2017 – 2022

- Composed, arranged, and programmed music for the jazz bands of various sizes and instrumentations

- Led the group through rehearsals and performances by conducting when necessary, making stylistic interpretation decisions, and making corrections as needed
- Encouraged diversity in musical performances by selecting repertoire from the many eras and styles of jazz including: swing, bebop, hard bop, bossa nova, samba, calypso, modal, Afro-Cuban, funk, and modern jazz
- Provided handouts and conducted lectures on improvisation, theory, ear training, and the unique language of jazz rhythm, harmony, melody, and texture
- Provided a solid foundation for the growth of the entire ensemble through extensive work with the rhythm section on matters such as time and swing feel, various styles of comping, and listening and blending appropriately
- Coordinated with the concert office, audio and visual departments, public relations, and the Calhoun foundation in preparation for band performances
- Brought in professional musicians for masterclasses and performances; including Curtis Lundy, Vincent Chancey, Ken Watters, Billy Bargetzi, and Steve Motz
- Maintained a studio for private guitar lessons for majors and non majors at various ability levels in jazz and classical styles
- Maintained a studio for non-guitarists taking private jazz theory and improvisation lessons
- Recruited incoming students to join the band
- Wrote audition requirements for various instruments and provide these to jazz band applicants
- Facilitated and graded live and virtual auditions of candidates
- Provided professional solo guitar performances for the annual Calhoun Foundation holiday party

W.C. Handy Jazz Camp

2017 – 2019

- Taught individual guitar lessons
- Conducted small and large ensembles in rehearsals and final performance
- Taught jazz theory courses and provided course handouts and materials

Valley Conservatory

2016 – 2018

- Maintained a guitar studio and taught students of various ages and ability levels
- Substitute for piano and electric bass teachers as needed
- Provided students with the learning tools (printed materials, apps or online resources) needed to achieve their musical goals

Freelance Musician

2005 - Present

- Perform with touring jazz musicians in local shows and on Southeast U.S. tours as needed, including with living legends Bobby Watson and Curtis Lundy
- Perform at various music festivals and jazz clubs in the Southeast as a bandleader and a sideman including Rudy's Jazz Room in Nashville, The Nashville Jazz Workshop, The Velvet Note in Atlanta, Crosstown Arts in Memphis, The W.C. Handy Festival, Microwave Dave Day, and Jazz in June
- Performed and acted as musical director for weekly jazz session at Stovehouse featuring different guest soloists each week
- Perform weekly or monthly recurring acts at The Casual Pint, The 360 Grille, and others
- Ran an open mic jazz jam session at local brewery Mad Malts, encouraging students of all ages and ability levels to participate and facilitating a sense of community in the jazz scene in North Alabama
- Perform locally with various jazz artists in North AL, including trumpeter Ken Watters, trombonist Billy Bargetzi pianist Keith Taylor, and bassist Devere Pride

- Played live on the air with Grammy winning indie rock band Alabama Shakes in 2011 on iHeartMedia’s show “Home Brew” on 106.1 FM
- Performed with various artists in Boston, MA, from 2014 through 2016

Recording Artist (discography below) 2005 - Present

- Recorded two albums as a band leader: *Time Marching On* and *All Things Green* which features Grammy Award winning drummer Terreon Gully, Grammy nominated bassist Curtis Lundy, and pianist Louis Heriveaux
- Played guitar on South Korean pianist Sohyun Hong’s album *Imagine*, featuring saxophonist George Garzone, bassist John Lockwood and Grammy Award winning drummer Mark Walker
- Recorded two albums as a member of the Army Materiel Command Band

Army Band, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL 2010 - 2014

Guitar Player/Arranger/Composer

Performed in a variety of ensembles ranging from symphonic bands to jazz combos for military and civilian audiences, street parades, concerts, festivals, and educational outreach performances. Groups include jazz combos (duo, trio, quartet, and quintet); big band – *Four Star Jazz Orchestra*; rock band; wind ensemble; guitar, flute and bass trio; guitar duo; solo jazz and classical guitar.

- The Army Band performed throughout the southeastern United States
- Logged over 200 performances in the region with various ensembles
- Principal soloist in *Four Star Jazz Orchestra* from 2013 through 2014
- Participated in educational outreach at Calhoun Community College, UAH, UAB, Northeastern Mississippi Community College, as well as clinics at surrounding area high schools
- Continued undergrad music education at UAH after duty hours

Professional Highlights

Performed With

Bobby Watson, internationally renowned saxophonist, composer and member of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers; Curtis Lundy, internationally renowned bassist and member of Betty Carter’s group; Terreon Gully, Grammy winning drummer; Sherman Irby, saxophonist and member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra; J.D. Allen, saxophonist; Greg Gisbert, trumpeter and former member of Buddy Rich band; Vincent Chancey, French horn player and member of Sun Ra Arkestra; Mark Zaleski, faculty at New England Conservatory and Berklee College of Music; Tom Wolfe, Associate Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts and Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Alabama; UAH jazz faculty including Ken Watters, Keith Taylor, and Billy Bargetzi; Dr. Andy Nevala of Jacksonville State University; Dr. Matt Leder of Gadsden State Community College; The Alabama Jazz Orchestra; Gary Wheat of UAB; Alabama Shakes.

Performances

Performance and master class for students at Hazel Green Elementary	2023
Performance and master class for students at New Hope Elementary	2023
Performance and master class for students at Owens Cross Roads Elementary	2023
Porchfest – music festival in Huntsville, AL	2021 & 2023
Curtis Lundy group Umoja at The Carver Theatre in Birmingham, AL	2022
Twice a month solo guitar performance at Mazzara’s Vinoteca	2022 - Present

Joshua Cook Quartet at Rudy's Jazz Room in Nashville, TN	2022
Josh Coutts and Friends Concerts on the Docks at Lowe Mille	2022
Weekly or monthly jazz Wednesdays at The Casual Pint	2021 - Present
Weekly duo performance at The 360 Grille in Florence, AL	2021 - 2022
Bobby Watson and Curtis Lundy group Umoja at The Cooper House in Huntsville	2021
Bobby Watson and Curtis Lundy group Umoja at The Nashville Jazz Workshop	2021
Bobby Watson and Curtis Lundy group Umoja at The Velvet Note in Atlanta, GA	2021
Bobby Watson and Curtis Lundy group Umoja at Crosstown Arts in Memphis, TN	2021
Alabama Jazz Orchestra at GSCC jazz festival featuring Sherman Irby and Greg Gisbert	2021
Mars Music Hall – Josh Coutts and Friends	2021
Josh Coutts and Friends Livestream from UAH Roberts Hall	2021
Bimonthly jazz brunch at La Esquina Cocina	2021
Microwave Dave Day – music festival in Huntsville	2021
Weekly Sunday Jazz at Stovehouse with different guest soloists each week	2019 - 2021
Curtis Lundy presents <i>Music of the Civil Rights Movement</i> concert featuring J.D. Allen	2019
<i>Time Marching On</i> album release party at Tangled String Studios	2019
W.C. Handy Music Festival – Josh Coutts Quartet performance	2018
Spicefest – music festival in Huntsville	2018
Big Spring Crush Wine and Food Festival	2018
Jazz in June - music festival in Huntsville	2017
Featured guest artist for the UAH Jazz Faculty concert	2017
TEDxHuntsville performance and lecture on the transformation of music through technology	2017
Weekly Jazz Jam Session host at Mad Malts Brewing Co.	2016 - 2020
Jazz Night Residency at The Brickhouse featuring weekly performances	2016 - 2017
Weekly Jazz Brunch host at Old Black Bear Brewing Co.	2016
Longy School of Music of Bard College Modern American Music Graduate Recital	2016
W.C Handy Jazz Festival with the Army Band – Florence, AL	2011 - 2013
StartleFest, Huntsville, AL music festival	2013 & 2019
Celebrating an American Jazz Master, Huntsville AL – Army Jazz Combo opened for Ellis Marsalis	2012

Discography

Josh Coutts, <i>All Things Green</i>	2022
Josh Coutts Quartet, <i>Time Marching On</i>	2018
Sohyun Hong, <i>Imagine</i>	2016
Jim Cavender & Josh Coutts, <i>Fridays at Noon: Guitar Duets Part 2</i>	2013
AMC Band, <i>Army Materiel Command's 50th Anniversary</i>	2012
Jim Cavender & Josh Coutts, <i>The Odd Couple: Guitar Duets Part 1</i>	2012
AMC Band, <i>Celebrating the Holidays</i>	2011

Private Training

Principal Teachers

Mark Zaleski – Chair of Woodwind and Brass departments at Longy School of Music, faculty at New England Conservatory and Berklee College of Music (jazz improvisation techniques)
Eric Hofbauer – Professor at Clark University and Emerson College (jazz guitar improvisation)
Leo Blanco – Longy faculty (jazz and world music improvisation and composition)

William Riley – Longy classical guitar professor

Phil Weaver – UAHuntsville classical guitar and guitar ensemble teacher

Jim Cavender – UAHuntsville jazz guitar and combo instructor, producer for Startlingly Fresh Records

Tim Cummiskey – The Ohio State University jazz guitar professor

Chalmers “Spanky” Alford – Jazz/R&B/gospel guitarist (recorded with Roy Hargrove, D’Angelo, Al Green, Erykah Badu, Tony! Toni! Tone’!, and John Mayer)

Master Classes

Ra-Kalam Bob Moses, Fernando Michelin, John Esposito, Evan Parker, Peter
Cassino, Dr. Jeremy Van Buskirk, and Bill Lowe at Longy School of Music 2014 -2016

Dr. Andy Nevala, Dr. Don Bowyer, and David Maslanka at UAHuntsville, 2011-2014
John Stowell, Rick Peckham and Larry Baione at Berklee Summer Guitar 2004
Sessions

Honors

Longy School of Music of Bard College 2014-2016
Cumulative GPA – 3.99
Performance Scholarship

University of Alabama in Huntsville 2011-2014
Cumulative GPA – 3.91
Jazz Band Scholarship