

Laura Caviani

Jazz Area Director
Carleton College

cell: 612-817-3898 lcaviani@carleton.edu

TEACHING EXPERIENCE/RECRUITING

- 2014–present:** Carleton College, Northfield, MN – Jazz Area Director
Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Chamber Groups, and Vocal Jazz Group
- 2003–present:** Carleton College, Northfield, MN – Applied Jazz Instructor
- 2021:** To protect the health and safety of the students, Music Department Ensemble Directors collaborated with Engineer Matthew Zimmerman to transform Carleton’s performance/rehearsal spaces into a multi-room recording studio, where we focused on developing audio/video recording skills.
- 2020:** Pre-COVID: Adjudicated at Jazz Fests at UW–Stevens Point, U–Northern Iowa, and in Waterloo, Iowa,
- 2019:** Guest Artist/Coach for: Albany HS, MN; Coe College, IA; U of MN; Farmington HS, MN; Apple Valley HS, MN
- 2018:** Guest Artist/Coach for U of WI/Madison Summer Music Clinic
- 2018:** Guest Artist with the Spring Lake Park High School Jazz Ensemble
- 2017–18:** Director of Wisconsin Honors Jazz Ensemble
- 2013–2015:** Faculty Member at Interlochen Jazz Camp, MI (high school)
- 2009, 2014:** Director of South Dakota All State Jazz Combos and Ensembles
- 2005–2007:** Faculty Member at Shell Lake Jazz Camp, WI (high school)
- 2004–2014:** St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN – Applied Jazz Lessons
- 1995–present:** Adjudicating Jazz Festivals (NV, WI, IA, SD, and MN)

REGULAR PERFORMANCES IN MINNESOTA

- 2014-2021:** Jazz Central, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016–2021:** The Dunsmore Room at Crooners, Fridley, MN
- 2015–2018:** The Black Dog Café, St. Paul, MN
- 2005–2017:** The Hopkins Center for the Arts

RECENT PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 2020:** Before COVID, January–March included: Grand Rapids, MN with Sam Miltich, show on Monk at “Jazz at Studio Z” in St. Paul, and “Jazz at St. Barney’s” in Plymouth, feat. drum legend Todd Strait.
- 2019:** Adjudicated/performed for the Iowa Jazz Championships in Ames, and was featured with an all female jazz ensemble comprised of some of the best women jazz artists in the country, including DIVA director, Sherrie Maricle.
- 2019:** Featured with New York City – based Ingrid Jensen, Trumpet, At UW–River Falls Jazz Fest
- 2019:** Trio opened for Davina and the Vagabonds at the Armory in Northfield, MN
- 2018:** Performed with Northfield HS Jazz Ensemble
Toured Stevens Point and Appleton, WI to coach/perform

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- Performed with Dean Sorenson's Sextet at Fox Valley Jazz Fest, WI
Carleton Student Chamber Group opened for my trio at Black Dog in St. Paul
- 2017:** Performed as Guest Artist with the University of MN Jazz Ensemble
Recorded new original "[Give Me Your Tired](#)" with text by Emma Lazarus
(featuring Karrin Allyson with the Laura Caviani Trio)
Performed with Trio for Summer Festivals in both IA and WI

COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTS

- 1995–2020:** Performed with national jazz artists including:
Ingrid Jensen, Toots Thielemans, Dave Liebman, Stan Getz, Phil Woods, Ernestine Anderson, Diane Schuur, and Oleta Adams
Performed with jazz artists from the Midwest, including:
JazzMN, Pete Whitman's Xtet, Prudence Johnson, Lucia Newell, Connie Evingson, Charmin Michelle, Patty Peterson, and Debbie Duncan

PAST TOURING HIGHLIGHTS

- 1995–2007:** Argentina ('07)
US Tour with Karrin Allyson, Diane Schuur, and Oleta Adams ('03, '04)
Japan ('98)

CARLETON PERFORMANCES WITH FACULTY

- 2020:** Performed my original "*Pastorale and Lumina*" and *Bolling Suite for Flute and Piano* with Martha Jamsa (flute) and guest artists Chris Bates and Dave Schmalenberger
- 2018:** Featured Zacc Harris, Greg Keel and guest artist JC Sanford at spring Jazz Fest
- 2017:** Performed with Matthew McCright my arrangement of "[BlackBird](#)" at Gala
- 2011:** Performed recital with Pat Kent and Rick Penning
- 2010:** Performed recital with Gwen Anderson

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2021:** To build community during COVID, co-hosted "Driveway Concerts" with JC Sanford on trombone, feat. local musicians who would play for free-will offerings. Also, my trio performed live-stream concert hosted by Jazz Central in Minneapolis.
- 2018:** Hosting House Concert Series (featuring guest artists in my new Northfield home)
- 2016–2018:** Leading Song Circle Workshops (IA, WI, and MN)
- 2016–2018:** Connecting Contra Dancing communities (between Northfield and Tapestry Folk Center in Minneapolis)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- 2021:** Performed outdoor services in Plymouth Church's parking lot

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- 2020:** Pre-recorded worship services feat. Laura Caviani Trio
2018–present: **Plymouth Congregational Church Early Service Music Director**
2013–2018: **Plymouth Congregational Church Early Service Sub**
2000–2013: **Accompanist at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church**

EDUCATION

- 2017:** Received grant from the Jerome Foundation to study choral composition with Carol Barnett through VocalEssence's ReMix program (17)
2016: Received funding from Carleton to study "Circle Songs," founded by Bobby McFerrin, at the Omega Institute in New York
2009: Received grant from the American Composers Forum to study with Libby Larsen
1995: **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
Master of Music in Improvisation, Graduate Teaching Assistant
1984: **Lawrence University, Appleton, WI**
Bachelor of Music in Theory/Composition, magna cum laude
1983, 1992: **Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY Summer School**

RECENT COMMISSIONS

- 2020:** to be premiered in May of 2022: "The Agitators: a Choral Work" feat. The Carleton Choir, dir. By [Matthew J. Olson](#)
2018: *Mary Lou Williams: Music for Peace, Re-Imagined*
(Swing Sisterhood Big Band and choir, dir. by Sarah Schmalenberger, St. Thomas)
Dream Cycle—a setting of three poems by Langston Hughes
"Movement 1", "[Movement 2](#)", "[Movement 3](#)"
(Vocal Essence, dir. by George Phillip Shoultz, Minneapolis Orchestra Hall)
2017: "[Manuscript](#)" and "[Sleep, Little Baby, Sleep](#)"
(Vocal Essence, dir. by Philip Brunelle, ACDA Convention in Minneapolis)
2016: "[Orion](#)" and "[Toccata for Orchestra](#)"
(St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, dir. by Jonathan Brandani)
"Paper Cranes" and *"Berceuse from the Firebird Suite"*
(Xtet, dir. by Pete Whitman, Hopkins Center for the Arts)
2015: *"Trip Away"* and *"Mortal Fools"* (Great River Chorale, dir. by Mary Kay Geston)
2013: "[Cordoba](#)" (Four Voices String Quartet)
2009: *"Jazz Piano Etudes"* (Matthew McCright; recorded on *Second Childhood*)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- 2021:** Chosen to attend the Millay Colony For the Arts in New York
2015: Won VocalEssence's "Welcome Christmas" Carol Composition contest
"[Go Tell It On The Mountain](#)"
2010: Runner up in the International Jazz Piano Competition in Jacksonville, FL
2006: Received funding from American Composers' Forum to tour with trio
(featuring Bob Bowman and Todd Strait)
1997: Received Nathan Pusey Award (Lawrence University)

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- As leader: *Mysterious Thelonious* (2017), "[San Francisco Holiday](#)"
Confluence (2017) "[Confluence](#)"
Going There (2005)
Angels We Haven't Heard (1999)
As One (1998)
Dreamlife (1996)
- As sideperson: *Winter Springs, Summer Falls*, Ann Reed (2017)
A Girl Named Vincent, Prudence Johnson (2011)
GJ4, Gordon Johnson (2008)
SambaNova, Joan Griffith (2008)
Daydream, Collage, Azure-Té, Karrin Allyson (1997, 1996, 1995)

CRITICS' COMMENTS

"...a masterful blend of... chordal complexity, innate sense of swing, and desire to live up to Monk's intrepid spirit" *Mysterious Thelonious* (2017) – Britt Robson, *Minneapolis StarTribune*

"...a pianist of exceptional range "
SambaNova (2008) – Andrea Canter, liner notes

"piano trio jazz of the highest order"
Going There (2005) – Bob Protzman, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"stunningly fresh"
As One (1998) – Nancy Ann Lee, *Jazz Times*

"...in a word, outstanding"
Dreamlife (96) – Tom Surowicz, *Minneapolis StarTribune*

"...Sparkling and inventive"
Dreamlife (1996) – Marian McPartland