

ELISSA KANA

SAXOPHONE

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Performance and Pedagogy (2015-2022)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

Saxophone studies with Dr. Kenneth Tse, Professor of Saxophone

Iowa Performance Fellowship Recipient

Musicology Teaching Assistant (2019-2020)

Saxophone Studio Teaching Assistant (2016-2018)

Secondary Area of Study – Wind Conducting

Completed May 2022

DMA Recording Project – “Strong Ties: Saxophone Music by Guillermo Lago”

Current GPA: 4.09

Master of Music in Music Performance (2012)

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

Saxophone studies with Dr. John Sampen, Distinguished Artist Professor

Graduate Assistantship (2010-2012)

Summer Study Abroad in Florence, Italy – Studio Arts Center International (2011)

GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Music in Music Performance and Music Education (2009)

Northwestern University – Evanston, Illinois

Saxophone studies with Dr. Frederick L. Hemke, Late Professor Emeritus of Music

Graduated *cum laude*

GPA: 3.91

Awarded Teaching Certificate: Initial IL Type 10 Special (K-12)

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Solo and Duo

Faculty Recital (October 2022)

University of Northern Iowa – Cedar Falls, Iowa

Faculty Recital (July 2022)

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp – Twin Lake, Michigan

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (March 2022)*

Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, Oklahoma

Shockingly Modern Saxophone Festival (February 2022)

Augustana College – Rock Island, Illinois

U.S. Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium (January 2022)*

George Mason University Center for the Arts – Fairfax, Virginia

Featured Classical Artist (2021)

North American Saxophone Alliance Region 3 Conference

Hastings College – Hastings, Nebraska

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (2020)

Arizona State University – Tempe, Arizona

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital (2019)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

Region 3 North American Saxophone Alliance Conference (2019)

University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital (2018)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

John Cummins Student Recital – Guest Performer (2018)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (2018)

University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music – Cincinnati, Ohio

World Premiere Performance – Craters of the Moon by Daniel Baldwin

John Cummins Faculty Recital – Guest Performer (2018)

Augustana College – Rock Island, Illinois

Josip Nohta International Saxophone Competition (2017)

Zagreb Academy of Music – Zagreb, Croatia

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital (2017)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

Region 3 North American Saxophone Alliance Conference (2017)

South Dakota State University – Brookings, South Dakota

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital (2016)

The University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

*Performance cancelled due to COVID-19.

Solo and Duo, continued

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (2016)

Texas Tech University School of Music – Lubbock, Texas

Concerto Soloist (2015)

Maine East Township High School Wind Ensemble – Park Ridge Illinois

Northshore Concert Band Festival of Music (2013, 2015)

Northwestern University – Evanston, Illinois

Region 5 North American Saxophone Alliance Conference (2013)

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

North American Premiere Performance – Litanies by Marilyn Shrude

World Saxophone Congress XVI (2012)

St. Leonards Auditorium – St. Andrews, Scotland

World Premiere Performance – Litanies by Marilyn Shrude

Master of Music Recital (2012)

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

Bowling Green State University New Music Festival (2011)

Bowling Green State University – Bowling Green, Ohio

Recital Performance (2011)

Conservatorio Santa Maria Angioli – Florence, Italy

Recital Performance (2011)

Palazzo dei Cartelloni – Florence, Italy

Region 5 North American Saxophone Alliance Conference (2011)

Northeastern University – Chicago, Illinois

Concerto Soloist (2010)

Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble – Evanston, Illinois

Masterclasses

Alain Crépin – Brussels Conservatory (2018)

Debra Richtmeyer – University of Illinois (2008)

Timothy Roberts – Principal Saxophonist (retired) of the United States Navy Band (2008)

David Hastings – University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (2007)

Clifford Leaman – University of South Carolina (2007)

Otis Murphy – Indiana University (2004)

Chamber Music Performances

Colere Quartet (Alto Saxophonist) – Iowa City, Iowa (2017-present)

Guest Artist Recital – Arts & Ideas Lewis Festival (March 2023)

Lewis University – Romeoville, Illinois

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (2022)*

Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, Oklahoma

Educational Mini-Tour (2021)

Lincoln-Way West High School – New Lenox, Illinois

Victor J. Andrew High School – Tinley Park, Illinois

Merit School of Music – Chicago, Illinois

Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series (2021)

Chicago Cultural Center – Chicago, Illinois

Broadcast Live on Chicago's 98.7 WFMT

Region 3 North American Saxophone Alliance Conferences

Hastings College – Hastings, Nebraska (2021)

University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, Minnesota (2019)

North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference (2020)

Arizona State University – Tempe, Arizona

Shockingly Modern Saxophone Festival (2020)

Augustana College – Rock Island, Illinois

Guest Recitals (2019)

Augustana College – Rock Island, Illinois

Monmouth College – Monmouth, Illinois

John Cummins Faculty Recital (2018)

Augustana College – Rock Island, Illinois

Iowa Saxophone Unite! (2017)

University of Northern Iowa – Cedar Falls, Iowa

*Performance cancelled due to COVID-19.

Saxophone Ensemble

Iowa Saxophonists' Workshop Ensemble – University of Iowa (2015-2021)

North American Saxophone Alliance Conferences

Arizona State University – Tempe, Arizona (2020)

University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, Minnesota (2019)

University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music – Cincinnati, Ohio (2018)

Texas Tech University – Lubbock, Texas (2016)

University of Iowa School of Music Collage Concert (2017)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

The Confucius Institute at the University of Iowa 10th Anniversary Celebration (2017)

The University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

Voxman Music Building Open House Celebration (2016)

University of Iowa – Iowa City, Iowa

Asia Tour (2016)

Sichuan Conservatory of Music – Chengdu, China

Hong Kong International Saxophone Symposium – Hong Kong

Bands and Wind Ensembles

University of Iowa Symphony Band (2015-2017)

Principal Saxophonist and Section Leader

Northshore Concert Band – Evanston, Illinois (2008-2010; 2012-2015)

Tenor Saxophonist (2008-2010)

Baritone Saxophonist (2012-2015)

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Youth Wind Ensemble – Detroit, Michigan (2011)

Substitute Musician

Northwestern University Summer Band (2006-2010)

Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble (2006-2009)

Principal Saxophonist and Section Leader (2008-2009)

Northwestern University Symphonic Band (2005-2008)

Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble (2006-2007)

Northwestern University Marching Band (2005)

Discography

The Voxman Project (2021)

Kurt Weill – *Little Threepenny Music (Suite from ‘The Threepenny Opera’)*

Soprano & Tenor Saxophonist

Mikel Kuehn – *Object/Shadow* (2016)

Mikel Kuehn – *Objet/Ombre [Hyperresonance III]* for 12 saxophones and electroacoustics

Baritone Saxophonist

Commissions and Consortia

Austin Yip: *Sprint* (2021)

Commissioner as part of the Colere Quartet

Joel Love: *Manitou Incline* for soprano saxophone and piano (2020)

Consortium Member

Alexandros Spyrou: *ephemera* for saxophone quartet (2020)

Commissioner as part of the Colere Quartet

Daniel Baldwin: *Craters of the Moon* for soprano saxophone, alto saxophone, & piano (2018)

Co-commissioner with John Cummins

Ian Dicke: *Straphanger* for tenor and baritone saxophones (2012)

Consortium Member

Films and Musical Theater

“KHU: Act 2 of Ancient Evenings” – Detroit, Michigan (2010)

Performance-art film written and directed by Matthew Barney, featuring New Music Detroit

Alto Saxophonist

The Waa-Mu Show – Northwestern University (2006, 2009)

Pit Orchestra Musician

HONORS AND AWARDS

Musical Awards

Gold Medalist – Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition (2020)

1st Prize – Plowman Chamber Music Competition (2019)

Semi-Finalist – Fiscoff National Chamber Music Competition (2012, 2018, 2019)

Iowa Performance Fellowship Recipient – University of Iowa (2015-2018)

2nd Prize – International Saxophone Symposium and Competition (2014)

Semi-Finalist – North American Saxophone Alliance Solo Competition (2014)

Semi-Finalist – North American Saxophone Alliance Saxophone Quartet Competition (2012)

Finalist – The 65th Annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition (2011)

Winner – Tuesday Musical Association of Ohio Arden J. Yockey Scholarship (2011)

Winner – Bowling Green State University Chamber Music Competition (2011)

Winner – Northwestern University Concerto Competition (2009)

Academic Awards

Dean's List – Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University (2005-2009)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Collegiate Saxophone Teaching

Instructor of Saxophone (2021-present)

School of Music, University of Northern Iowa

- Provide weekly saxophone lessons to majors and non-majors
- Coach an undergraduate saxophone quartet
- Prepare saxophone majors for their end-of-semester juries

Visiting Saxophone Instructor (2019)

School of Performing Arts, South Dakota State University

- Served as paternity leave replacement to Dr. Yiqun Chen (Instructor of Saxophone at SDSU)
- Taught lessons to applied saxophone majors in Dr. Chen's absence

Saxophone Teaching Assistant (2016-2018)

School of Music, University of Iowa

- Quarter-time (25%) appointment
- Instructed saxophone majors, non-major saxophonists, and saxophone quartets as needed
- Taught saxophone section of Instrumental Techniques to undergraduate music education majors
- Organized and led saxophone ensemble rehearsals
- Wrote letters of recommendation for students as requested
- Kept track of studio-owned instruments and issued them to saxophone majors

Teaching Assistant and Coordinator (2017-2019)

American Saxophone Academy, University of Iowa

- Organized and oversaw logistics for a week-long summer institute for 40 advanced saxophonists
- Selected repertoire for the Academy's ten quartets and three large saxophone ensembles
- Conducted and led large saxophone ensemble rehearsals and performances
- Performed with faculty members in Faculty Recital
- Served as house and stage manager for Academy concerts

Other Collegiate Teaching

Marching Band Director (Fall 2021)

Monmouth College – Monmouth, Illinois

- Prepared and led weekly marching band rehearsals
- Handled all logistics related to marching band rehearsals, football games, and parade performances

Musicology Teaching Assistant (2019-2020)

School of Music, University of Iowa

- Half-time (50%) appointment
- Instructor of Record for "Great Musicians" (music appreciation course for non-majors)
- Teaching Assistant for "History of Western Music II" (survey course for undergraduate music majors)

Secondary School Teaching

Woodwind Faculty (2018-2019, 2021-2022)

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp – Twin Lake, Michigan

- Lead saxophone sectionals and teach saxophone technique and master classes
- Co-lead a short presentation for all woodwind students that includes a brief history of the saxophone and a playing demonstration of the instrument's capabilities
- Provide written evaluations to the parents of each saxophone student at the camp's conclusion
- Teach conducting, music theory, and exploratory "Try A New Woodwind" courses

Private Teaching

Quad City Symphony Orchestra Private Lesson Program (2021-present)

Davenport, Iowa

- Provide Quad City-area students (grades 5-12) with private lessons varying from 30-60 minutes
- Help students prepare for solo and ensemble contest, honor band auditions, and school chair tests
- Students selected for the Illinois Music Education Association District 2 Junior Honor Band

Private Saxophone Studio (2019-present)

Iowa City, Iowa

- Provide Iowa City-area students (grades 5-12) with private lessons varying from 30-60 minutes
- Help students prepare for solo and ensemble contest, honor band auditions, and school chair tests
- Students selected for the Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band
- Host and plan an annual year-end recital for students

University of Iowa Community Music Lesson Program (2017-2019)

Iowa City, Iowa

- Provided Iowa City-area students (grades 5-12) with private lessons varying from 30-60 minutes
- Helped students prepare for solo and ensemble contest, honor band auditions, and chair tests
- Students selected for the Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band
- Hosted and planned an annual year-end recital for students

Merit School of Music (2012-2015)

Chicago, Illinois

- Provided weekly 30-minute private saxophone lessons and sectionals to band students (grades 5-8) at Merit's downtown location and through their "Merit Music in Communities" outreach program
- Coached saxophone quartets and co-led saxophone ensemble rehearsals at Saxophone Camp

Maine East Township High School (2014-2015)

Park Ridge, Illinois

- Provided saxophone students with private lessons, quartet coachings, and sectionals

Private Saxophone and Clarinet Instructor (2012-2015)

Chicago, Illinois

- Taught private lessons to middle and high-school students
- Students earned placement in the Illinois Music Educator's Association District VII Junior Honor Band and superior ratings at the Illinois Grade School Music Association's Solo/Ensemble Contest

Private Saxophone Instructor (2011-2012)

Bowling Green, Ohio

- Taught private lessons to high school students, many of whom earned placement in the Ohio Music Educator's Association District 1 Honor Band and superior ratings at Solo and Ensemble contests

Music Plus Program Instructor (2010-2012)

Bowling Green State University

- Provided individual and group music lessons to students from the Toledo Public Schools

Masterclasses & Clinics

Colere Quartet Educational Mini-Tour (Fall 2021)

- Victor J. Andrew High School – Tinley Park, Illinois
- Merit School of Music – Chicago, Illinois

Illinois Music Education Association Junior Honor Band Statewide Virtual Festival (2020)

Morton High School Saxophone Day – Morton, Illinois (2020)

Saxophone Sectional Instructor – Hawkeye Honors Music Festival, University of Iowa (2018)

Northshore Concert Band Festival of Music – Evanston, Illinois (2013, 2015)

Masterclass Presentation: Articulation and Style

Band

Student Teacher (2009)

New Trier Township High School (Grades 9-12) – Winnetka, Illinois

- Directed wind and jazz ensembles, led sectionals, performed administrative duties

Student Teacher (2009)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Laboratory Magnet School (Grades 4-8) – Evanston, Illinois

- Taught beginning and intermediate instrumental, band, and jazz band classes

Summer Marching Band Technician (2006-2008)

James E. Taylor High School (Grades 9-12) – Katy, Texas

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Adjudication

Lincoln-Way High School Virtual Band Auditions (2021-2022)

Lockport, Illinois

Solo and Ensemble Virtual Festival – Deerfield and Highland Park High Schools (2020-2021)

Deerfield and Highland Park, Illinois

Northshore Concert Band Solo and Ensemble Festival (2010, 2013-2015)

Evanston, Illinois

University Service

School of Music Scheduler (2021-present)

School of Music, University of Iowa

Customer Service Representative (2018-2019)

Iowa Hawk Shop, University of Iowa

Customer Service Representative (2007-2009)

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University

Professional Service

Silent Auction Committee Member (2015)

Northshore Concert Band – Evanston, Illinois

OUTREACH & PUBLIC HUMANITIES ENGAGEMENT

Fischoff Gold Medal Tour – Virtual School and Community Visits (2020-2021)

- Boys and Girls Club – St. Joseph County, Indiana
- Canterbury School – Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Holy Cross Village Senior Living Community – Notre Dame, Indiana
- John Young Middle School – Mishawaka, Indiana
- LaSalle Academy – South Bend, Indiana
- Penn High School – Mishawaka, Indiana
- Saint Joseph High School – Saint Joseph, Michigan

Fischoff Chamber Music Association Winter Gala (2021)

Featured Guest – “Hancher Presents” Podcast (2020)

Front Porch Music Festival – Iowa City, Iowa (2016-2018)

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Conference Presentations

“The Cohesive Function of John Corigliano’s Chaconne in The Red Violin”

Iowa Musicology Day (2016)

Drake University – Des Moines, Iowa

Liner Notes

The Voxman Project (Spring 2021)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Conducting Experience

Large Ensemble Conductor (2017-2019)

American Saxophone Academy, University of Iowa

Advanced Wind Conducting Lessons (2016-2018)

Dr. Richard Mark Heidel, University of Iowa

Conducting Classes (2007-2008)

Dr. Ryan Nelson, Northwestern University

Dr. Mallory Thompson, Northwestern University

Entrepreneurship Workshops

Akropolis Mastermind Artistic Business Initiative Workshop (July 2021)

Participant with the Colere Quartet

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

North American Saxophone Alliance

Pi Kappa Lambda – Alpha Chapter