

# Earl MacDonald

Director of Jazz Studies, University of Connecticut

Pianist - Composer - Arranger - Conductor - Educator

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## **CURRENT POSITION:**

08/2000 - present

### **DIRECTOR OF JAZZ STUDIES**

**Department of Music, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT**

- promoted to Professor in 2016.
- tenure & promotion to Associate Professor granted in 2005.
- administer the university jazz program.
- conduct the university jazz ensembles.
- teach jazz improvisation, arranging and applied study.
- oversee adjunct faculty in jazz.
- participate in departmental recruitment and outreach programs.

09/2009 – 09/2010

### **ASSOCIATE DEPARTMENT HEAD**

**Department of Music, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT**

- organized departmental activities and initiatives including open house recruitment events and the annual concerto competition.
- oversaw and documented the implementation of the department's Strategic Plan
- served on the Executive Committee (and other ad hoc committees)
- advised undergraduate students.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

08/1998 - 06/2000

### **MUSICAL DIRECTOR, KEYBOARDIST, ARRANGER**

**Maynard Ferguson Music USA, Inc.**

- performed across North America, Europe and Asia with Maynard Ferguson and his Big Bop Nouveau band.
- rehearsed the band, and determined what music was performed nightly.
- composed and arranged new repertoire.
- critiqued, lectured, and instructed students in clinics at universities, colleges, and high schools across North America and abroad.
- reviewed audition tapes and made recommendations pertaining to personnel.

08/1997 - 05/1998

### **VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF JAZZ**

**Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio**

- directed a jazz lab band, coached a jazz combo, taught jazz history, survey of jazz styles, jazz piano fundamentals, applied jazz piano, and commercial music industry practices.
- performed regularly with the Faculty Jazz Quintet (on and off campus).

09/1996 - 05/1997

### **SABBATICAL REPLACEMENT (full-time)**

**St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia**

- taught jazz history, ear training, 19th & 20th century theory and analysis, and private lessons.
- performed and toured the maritime provinces with the faculty jazz ensemble.

08/1992 - present

### **FREELANCE MUSICIAN**

- perform as a pianist and electronic keyboardist.
- arrange & compose music for commissions and self-initiated projects.
- teach in clinics, workshops, adjudication and privately

**EDUCATION:**

- 1993 - 1995                   **RUTGERS, The State University of New Jersey**  
**Mason Gross School of the Arts**  
 MASTER OF MUSIC, May 1995  
 Jazz Studies, Performance  
 • studio instruction with Kenny Barron & Joanne Brackeen.
- 1988 - 1992                   **McGILL UNIVERSITY, Montréal, Québec**  
 BACHELOR OF MUSIC, June 1992  
 Major in Jazz Performance, Distinction in Jazz Piano  
 • studio instruction with Jon Ballantyne, Fred Henke & André White.

**PRIVATE STUDY & PERSONAL UPGRADING:** (selected)

- B.M.I. Jazz Composers' Workshop, New York City (2003-04, 2006-07, 2013-14)
- jazz improvisation lessons with Charlie Banacos (2006)
- conducting courses with Dr. Jeffrey Renshaw at the University of Connecticut (2001-02)
- big band arranging lessons with Michael Abene, Paterson, NY (1999-2002)
- piano lessons with Fred Hersch (monthly), New York City (2001-02)
- composition lessons with Michael Philip Mossman & Maria Schneider, NYC (1999)
- piano lessons with Kenny Werner (1998)

**ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS, GRANTS:** (selected)

- UConn School of Fine Arts Research Grant, 2017
- University of Connecticut Scholarship Facilitation Fund, 2016
- Juno Award nomination for *Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year*, 2014
- UConn School of Fine Arts Outstanding Faculty Award, 2013
- Juno Award nomination for *Traditional Jazz Album of the Year*, 2011
- "Best Jazz Group," Hartford Advocate's Readers' Poll (New Directions Ensemble), 2011
- *Winner*, Jazz Song Category, Independent Music Awards, 2011 (Bad Dream)
- *Finalist*, ArtEZ Jazz Composition Contest, the Netherlands, 2008 & 2011
- UConn School of Fine Arts Special Achievement Award, 2011
- Meet the Composer grant, New England Foundation for the Arts, 2010
- Piano student, Alma Macbride won the "Mary Lou Williams Competition", sponsored by JALC, 2009
- Artist Fellowship, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, 2009
- UConn Research Foundation Large Grant: The Composition & Recording of Original Works for Jazz Orchestra, 2008
- *Finalist*, Charlie Parker / B.M.I. Jazz Composition Award, 2007
- AAUP Excellence Award for Teaching Innovation, 2006
- New Scholar Award, School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut, 2004
- Artist Fellowship, Connecticut Commission on the Arts, 2003
- AAUP Excellence Award for Teaching Promise, 2003
- Sammy Nestico Award, for outstanding big band jazz arrangement, sponsored by the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force, 2003

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS:**

- American Federation of Musicians, Local 190
- CARAS: Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences
- CMA: Chamber Music America
- College Music Society
- SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada)
- Hartford Jazz Society, board member, 2008-10.
- JEN (Jazz Education Network)
- Kappa Kappa Psi (honorary member)
- MENC, the National Association for Music Education / Connecticut Music Educators Association
- Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society

**DISCOGRAPHY:** (selected recordings)

- 2017        **Earl MacDonald, *Open Borders***. \*Death Defying Records: DD0016  
featuring the 10-piece *Yankee Gumbo* ensemble
- 2013        **Earl MacDonald & the Creative Opportunity Workshop, *Mirror of the Mind***.  
\* Death Defying Records: DD0009  
• nominated for a 2014 Juno Award in the “Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year” category.
- 2010        **Earl MacDonald, *re:Visions***. \*Death Defying Records: DD0004  
Recorded at Bennett Studios, Englewood, NJ.  
• nominated for a 2011 Juno Award in the “Traditional Jazz Album of the Year” category.
- 2004        **the Earl MacDonald 6, *Echoes In The Night***. \* SeaBreeze Records.  
Dick Oatts (as), Joe Magnarelli (trpt), Steve Davis (tbn), Dave Santoro (b), Tom Melito (dr).
- 2004        **Maynard Ferguson, *Live From the King Kat Theatre in Seattle***. DVD.  
+ Paradise Media Partners.  
recorded: October 2, 1998
- 2002        **UConn Jazz, *featuring Earl MacDonald with special guest Jerry Bergonzi***  
\*^ SeaBreeze Vista Records: SBV-4550
- 1999        **Michael Feinstein with the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, *Big City Rhythms***.  
+ Concord Records, Inc.: CCD-4869-2  
recorded at Capitol Studios, Hollywood, CA.
- 1998        **Jim Brennan, *Jim Brennan***  
# independent release: 3BCD-01
- 1997        **Earl MacDonald, *Schroeder's Tantrum***. \*Radioland (RACD 10008)  
Ralph Bowen (ts), Kevin Dean (trpt), Mike Downes (b), Ted Warren (dr).
- 1994        **Kenny Barron, *Wanton Spirit***. \*Verve 522 364-2.  
Kenny Barron (piano), Charlie Haden (bass) and Roy Haynes (drums).  
Earl MacDonald composed the title track, “Wanton Spirit”.  
• nominated for a Grammy award.

\* appears as performer, composer, arranger

+ appears as performer

# appears as composer, arranger

^ appears as director and/or conductor

**PROMINENT PERFORMANCE COLLEAGUES:** (selected)

Jerry Bergonzi, Ralph Bowen, Don Braden, Larry Coryell, Kenny Davis, Kevin Dean, Denis DiBlasio, Mike Downes, Wayne Escoffery, Charles Fambrough, Joel Frahm, Hugh Fraser, Brad Goode, Jerri Granelli, Tom Harrell, Andre Hayward, Jeff Holmes, Steve Houghton, Ingrid Jensen, Kirk MacDonald, Joe Magnarelli, Michael Philip Mossman, Dick Oatts, P.J. Perry, Tim Ries, Dianne Schuur, Ed Soph, Marvin Stamm, Tom Varner, Kenny Wheeler, Phil Woods and Dave Young

**CLINICIAN EMPLOYMENT:**

Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford, CT	04/17/2018, 2016
NHMEA Professional Development Conference, Concord, NH	04/13/2018
UConn 1 <sup>st</sup> Chair Honor Band Festival and Director Clinic	02/24/2018
Mansfield Middle School Clinic Festival, Mansfield, CT	06/01/2017
Jazz.FM 91 Youth Big Band, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	10/22/2016, 03/27/2010
Etobicoke School of the Arts, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	10/21/2016, 03/26/2010
Canton High School, Canton, CT	12/04/2015
Londonderry High School, Londonderry, NH	04/24/2015
New Hampshire State Conference, Concord, NH	04/17/2015
Norwich Free Academy, Norwich, CT	11/13/2014
Improvisation Clinic for UCONN Brass and Percussion Festival	annually, since 2012
Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg, MB, Canada	03/05/2012
Rocky Hill H.S., Rocky Hill, CT	11/09/2011
E.O. Smith H.S., Storrs, CT	04/27/2011
Mystic Middle School Jazz Band	04/11/2011
Connecticut Music Educators Assoc. Conference, Hartford, CT	04/09/2010, 04/07/2011
Donald A. Wilson High School, Whitby, Ontario, Canada	03/25/2010
Berklee School of Music, Boston, MA	02/07/2010
Amherst College, Amherst, MA	10/24/2009, 05/03/2010
Bristow Middle School, West Hartford, CT	06/01/2006, 06/05/2008, 06/10/2009
Manchester H.S., Manchester, CT	03/04/1999, 03/07/2002, 04/12/2004
Old Saybrooke H.S., Old Saybrooke, CT	02/13/2002, 02/12/2003
Hall High School, West Hartford, CT	11/12/2002, 05/31/2006
Glastonbury H.S., Glastonbury, CT	annually, since 2006
Branford High School, Branford, CT	04/12/2002
Derby High School, Derby, CT	03/28/2002
Stonington H.S., Pawcatuck, CT	11/09/2000
Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL	11/13/1999
West High School, Madison, WI	11/12/1999
Bangor High School, Bangor, ME	11/02/1999
Schenectady H.S., Schenectady, NY	10/21/1999
Bald Eagle H.S., State College, PA	10/19/1999
Smith Opera House, Geneva, NY	10/16/1999
University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Knoxville, TN	09/30/1999
Bestwestern University: Bands of America Intl., Normal, IL	06/25/1999
Bell Brook H.S., Bellbrook, OH	06/24/1999
Bangkok Cultural Arts Center, Bangkok, Thailand	05/20/1999
Caro High School, Romulus, MI	05/14/1999
Lincoln High School, Ann Arbor, MI	05/13/1999
McCreary High School, Corbin, KY	05/11/1999
Port Chester H.S., Port Chester, NY	05/8/1999
Champlain Valley Union High School, Burlington, VT	05/4/1999
Morrisville Middle/High School, Morrisville, PA	05/1/1999
Parkside High School, Salisbury, MD	04/30/1999
Carteret High School, Carteret, NJ	04/27/1999
Robert First Center For Arts, Atlanta, GA	04/5/1999
Brandywine H.S., Wilmington, DE	03/21/1999
The Centrum, Houston, TX	02/20/1999
Union High School, Tulsa, OK	02/18/1999
Westbury Music Fair, Jericho, NY	10/30/1998
New Brass Performance Hall, Fort Worth, TX [Workshop at TCU]	10/28/1998
Univ. of Washington / King Cat Theatre, Seattle, WA	10/1/1999
Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach, FL	09/26/1998

**SUMMER JAZZ CAMP INSTRUCTION:**

Jazz In July, UMass, Amherst, Massachusetts (2015 onwards)  
 Jazz-MU-Tazz, Marshall University, West Virginia (2015)  
 Kincardine Summer Music Festival, Kincardine, ON, Canada (2012-14)  
 UConn: Summer School of the Arts, Week of Jazz (2009-10)  
 US Performing Arts & Media Jazz Camp, Storrs, CT (2005-07)  
 University of Manitoba Jazz Camp, Winnipeg, MB, Canada (2000-02)  
 International Peace Gardens Jazz Camp, Dunseith, ND (1993)

**EDUCATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION:**

Manchester High School Jazz Festival (annually, 2008 onwards)  
 Brandon University Jazz Festival, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada (2016, 2004, 2001)  
 Loyola University Jazz Festival, New Orleans, LA (2015)  
 Norwalk High School Jazz Festival, Norwalk, CT (2015)  
 Optimist International Band Festival, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (2012, 2001)  
 New Hampshire Band Directors Association Jazz Clinic, Hollis, NH (2012)  
 Keyano College Jazz Festival, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada (2005, 2003, 2000)  
 Jazz Works Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (2005, 2001)  
 Brien McMahon High School Jazz Festival, Norwalk, CT (2004)  
 Southington High School Jazz Festival, Southington, CT (2004, 2002, 2001)  
 Center Connecticut Youth Jazz Festival, Meriden, CT (2003)  
 Griswold Jazz Festival, Griswold High School, Jewett City, CT (2003)

**GUEST CONDUCTING:**

MMEA-ED Jr. Jazz Band, Sudbury, MA (03/10/2018)  
 Vermont VMEA District VI High School Jazz Band, Springfield, VT (02/03/2018)  
 Massachusetts 2015-16 All State Jazz Ensemble, Newport, RI (07/31/2016)  
 Massachusetts 2015-16 All State Jazz Ensemble, Symphony Hall, Boston, MA (03/10-12/2016)  
 Marshall University Jazz Ensemble, Huntington, West Virginia (09/30/2015, 06/20/2015)  
 B.M.I./NY Jazz Orchestra, Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, New York City (06/26/2014)  
 University of Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Storrs, CT (05/01/2014)  
 Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, Winnipeg, MB, Canada (03/16/2014)  
 Connecticut Eastern Region High School Jazz Ensemble (01/14-15/2011)  
 Massachusetts Southeast District Jazz Ensemble (01/08-09/2010)  
 Connecticut Northern Region High School Jazz Ensemble (01/15-16/2010)  
 Connecticut Northern Region Middle School Jazz Ensemble (03/06-07/2009)  
 Massachusetts Central District Jazz Ensemble, Worcester, MA (01/14-17/2009)  
 B.M.I./NY Jazz Orchestra, Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, New York City (07/19/2007)  
 MENC All-Eastern Honors Jazz Ensemble, Baltimore, Maryland (03/03-06/2005)  
 Connecticut Northern Regional High School Festival Jazz Band (01/26/2002, 01/14-15/2005)  
 Connecticut Eastern Regional High School Festival Jazz Band (01/7-8/2005)  
 B.M.I./NY Jazz Orchestra, Merkin Hall, New York City (07/15/2004)  
 Connecticut Western Regional High School Festival Jazz Band (01/16-17/2004)  
 Massachusetts Southeast District High School Jazz Ensemble (01/9-10/2004)  
 University of Connecticut Wind Ensemble (11/14/2002)  
 U.S.A.F. Airmen of Note. Howard University, Washington, D.C. (07/27/2002)  
 Connecticut Southern Regional High School Festival Jazz Band (01/19/2002)

**ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS & ARRANGEMENTS:**

\* Lists of compositions and arrangements written for big band, 10tet (the Hartford Jazz Society's *New Directions Ensemble*), sextet, quintet, quartet, the St. Paul's Jazz Lauds ensemble, C.O.W. (the Creative Opportunity Workshop), and other instrumentations are available upon request.