

Earl MacDonald's seemingly inexhaustible commitment to the jazz art form is evident in his performing, composing and teaching. Described as "a magical, musical alchemist of hip hybrids" (Hartford Courant) and "a major force in the world of jazz composition" (Dan Bilawsky, AllAboutJazz.com), the former musical director and pianist for Maynard Ferguson serves as the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Connecticut and teaches annually at UMass Amherst's *Jazz in July* program.

With seven albums released as a bandleader, MacDonald's accolades include a 2022 *Covenant Award* from GMA Canada, the Connecticut Office of the Arts' *2020 Artistic Excellence Award*, the *Sammy Nestico Award* for big band arranging, and two "jazz album of the year" *JUNO Award* nominations.

The Winnipeg native earned degrees from McGill University and Rutgers, where he apprenticed with NEA Jazz Master, Kenny Barron. Further studies include affiliation with the BMI Jazz Composer's Workshop and piano lessons with Fred Hersch.

Despite his considerable career accomplishments, one senses the best lies ahead. Through his compositional work, MacDonald aims to continue the long, impactful tradition of political and social activism that jazz music and its musicians have created. Visit www.earlmacdonald.com or connect on Instagram (@earlmacdon) and Facebook (/earl.macdonald).