

Earl MacDonald

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
 Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies
 Department of Music
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Professional Preparation

<i>Undergraduate:</i>	B. Mus., 1992	McGill University	Jazz Performance, Distinction in Jazz Piano
<i>Graduate:</i>	M. Mus., 1995	Rutgers University	Jazz Studies

Professional Appointments

2000-present	Director of Jazz Studies, UConn, Dept. of Music. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tenure and promotion to Associate Professor granted in 2005. ▪ promoted to full Professor in 2016.
1998-2000	Musical Director/Pianist/Arranger, Maynard Ferguson Music
1997-1998	Visiting Assistant Professor of Jazz, Bowling Green State University
1996-1997	Sabbatical Replacement, St. Francis Xavier University

Discography

selected recordings as leader:

2021	<u>Earl MacDonald</u> , <i>Consecrated</i> . *Outside in Music: OiM 2115 • <i>GMA Canada “Covenant Award” for Jazz Artist of the Year, 2022</i>
2017	<u>Earl MacDonald</u> , <i>Open Borders</i> . *Death Defying Records: DD0016 featuring the 10-piece <i>Yankee Gumbo</i> ensemble • Independent Music Awards recipient for <i>Jazz Producer of the Year, 2019</i>
2013	<u>Earl MacDonald & the Creative Opportunity Workshop</u> , <i>Mirror of the Mind</i> . * Death Defying Records: DD0009 • 2014 Juno Award nomination: “Contemporary Jazz Album of the Year”
2010	<u>Earl MacDonald</u> , <i>re:Visions, Works for Jazz Orchestra</i> . *Death Defying Records: DD0004 • 2011 Juno Award nomination: “Traditional Jazz Album of the Year”
2004	<u>the Earl MacDonald 6</u> , <i>Echoes In The Night</i> . * SeaBreeze Records.

recent recordings as contributor (producer, pianist, composer and/or arranger):

2024	<u>the Brenan Brothers</u> , <i>Valley of Silence</i> . *Death Defying Records Recorded in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. • pianist, arranger
2024	<u>New London Big Band</u> , <i>Lost Music of Harry James, by Thad Jones</i> , featuring Wayne Bergeron (trumpet) & John Riley (drums). • album producer

Original Compositions & Arrangements

Compositions for 17-piece Jazz Orchestra have been performed by:

U.S. Air Force *Airmen of Note*, U.S. Coast Guard *Guardians Big Band*, the BMI/NY Jazz Orchestra, the Westchester Jazz Orchestra, Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, the Millennium Jazz Orchestra, Roy Coran Big Band, Hartford Jazz Orchestra, New London Big Band, and university-based jazz ensembles from the Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, the University of North Texas, Rutgers, McGill, Rowan University, Marshall University, Lawrence University, Grant MacEwan University, Amherst College, Williams College, UMASS Amherst, the University of Manitoba, Capilano University, University of Redlands, Loyola University, the University of Toronto and the University of Louisville, among others.

Awards & Distinctions

- Joan C. Edwards Distinguished Professor in the Arts, Marshall University, 2024
- GMA Canada “Covenant Award” for Jazz Artist of the Year, 2022
- Connecticut Art Directors Club - 3 Silver Awards - Video, Music Video, Institutional/Trade categories - 45th CADC Awards Show, 2021
- Artistic Excellence Award, Office of the Arts, Department of Economic and Community Development, 2020
- Jazz Producer of the Year, Independent Music Awards, 2019
- 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
- Winner, jazz song category, 10th Annual Independent Music Awards, 2011
- Winner, “Best Jazz Group”, Hartford Advocate readers’ poll, 2011
- UConn School of Fine Arts Special Achievement Award, 2011
- Finalist, ArtEZ Jazz Composition Contest, the Netherlands, 2011 & 2008
- Artist Fellowship, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, 2009
- Finalist, Charlie Parker/BMI Jazz Composition Award, 2007
- AAUP Excellence Award for Teaching Innovation, 2006
- “Best Jazz Group,” Hartford Advocate’s Reader’s Poll (the Earl MacDonald 6), 2004
- 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 big band arranging, sponsored by the United States Air Force, 2003
- Grammy-nomination, for “Wanton Spirit,” the title track of Kenny Barron’s 1994 Verve Records CD, composed by Earl MacDonald, 1996.

Support for the last five years from all UConn sources

- School of Fine Arts Research Grant, AY 2020-21, \$8,000
- Research Excellence Program, University of Connecticut, AY 2019-20, \$10,000
- Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience (SHARE) award, AY 2019-20, \$2,000
- UCONN School of Fine Arts Research Grant, AY- 2017-18, \$7,500