

JONATHAN SARAGA

Trumpeter | Flugelhornist | Composer | Arranger | Educator | Producer | Transcriber | Copyist
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Jonathan Saraga is a New York City-based trumpeter, composer, arranger, producer, educator and Doctor of Musical Arts.

He has professionally recorded on over 25 albums, including 2 under his own name (for Blue Truffle Music and Fresh Sound Records). His playing secured him a first-place win in the 2007 International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition, and finalist status in 2009 Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition. It's also earned him participation in 3 internationally selective music programs—the 2011 School for Improvisational Music's Summer Intensive, the 2015 Banff Center's Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music and the 2019 Banff Artist in Residence Program. Jonathan was one of two trumpeters to receive a callback for the Juilliard Artist Diploma in 2014, and one of 5 to make it to final round of auditions for the GRAMMY-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra's 4th Trumpet Chair in 2020. Last but not least, Jonathan's musicianship allowed him the opportunity to pursue and earn a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with full-scholarship and paid assistantship/instructorship.

Saraga's original music earned him finalist status in the Chamber Music America 2019 New Jazz Work's grant competition and secured him semi-finalist nominations in the International Songwriting Competition 2 years in a row (2016 and 2017), in addition to a finalist/honorable mention selection in the 2017 competition. He was among 19 up-and-coming jazz composers selected from a global pool to receive a 2016 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award presented by the ASCAP/Herb Alpert foundations and among 16 to receive a commission from the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers in 2020. That same year, Jonathan was selected to present at the International Society for Improvised Music conference at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne, Australia and at the Association for Popular Music Education conference at Edinburgh Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also selected to participate in the 2020 BMI Jazz Composers Workshop and received grants from the University of Colorado Boulder Music Advisory Board, the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, the Actors Fund/Local 802 Musicians Union, the Jazz Foundation of America, the Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance, and the Recording Academy/MusiCares.

Since 2006, Saraga has performed throughout Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Canada and across the U.S. and has played in ensembles led by highly acclaimed artists such as Steve Coleman, Henry Cole, Maria Schneider, The Mingus Big Band, Remy Le Boeuf, Darcy James Argue, Orrin Evans, Jihye Lee, Migiwa Miyajima, Jason Marshall, Manuel Valera, Josh Evans, Jimmy Greene, Tyshawn Sorey, Eric Bergen and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra.

Jonathan holds 3 degrees in Jazz Studies/Trumpet Performance (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts).