

Matthew Nelson

Tenor, Alto, Soprano Saxophones

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EDUCATION

UC Irvine, California | Sept. 2018 – June 2022

B.A. Music – Jazz Studies | Phi Beta Kappa

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Musician

Sept. 2021 – Present

Perform for live audiences; Record music; Compose and arrange for commissions; Collaborate with other musicians and artists

Jazz Band Director | *Fountain Valley High School*

Sept. 2023 – Present

Create and manage curriculum for jazz band; conduct rehearsals; attend competitions and festivals; recruit members; Collaborate with other campus departments and ensembles

Theatre Music Director | *Fountain Valley High School Theatre Department*

Jan. 2023 – Present

Rehearse pit orchestra; Arrange music for pit orchestra; Rehearse cast; Organize rehearsal schedule with producer and choreographer; Conduct cast and pit during performances; Teach classes on basic music theory

Woodwind Tech

Aug. 2022 - Present

Train woodwind players to play their instruments at a high level; Teach ensemble playing skills; Lead sectionals and rehearsals: Co-Create lesson plans with band director

Yorba Linda Middle School Instrumental Music Department | Jan. 2025 – Present

Irvine High School Instrumental Music Department | Sept. 2024 – Present

Portola High School Instrumental Music Department | Oct. 2022 – Present

Fountain Valley High School Instrumental Music Department | Aug. 2022 – Present

Santa Ana High School Instrumental Music Department | Sept. 2022 – Nov. 2024

University High School Instrumental Music Department | Mar. 2023 – June 2024

La Quinta High School Instrumental Music Department | Aug. 2023 – Oct. 2023

Edison High School Instrumental Music Department | Feb. 2023 – June 2023

Jazz Band Director | *University High School*

Sept. 2023 – June 2024

Create and manage curriculum for jazz band; conduct rehearsals; attend competitions and festivals; recruit members; Collaborate with other campus departments and ensembles

Faculty | *UC Irvine – Summer Academies in the Arts*

July 2022 – July 2023

Teach a course on improvisation for classical musicians; Run rehearsals; Lead workshops on composition; Perform literature with students

Teaching Artist Intern Mentor | *UC Irvine – Creative Connections*

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022

Create and execute lesson plans and presentations; Correspond with students and faculty; Assign and review assignments; Create a safe, positive, and inclusive learning environment; Guide and support team of interns; Lead team building activities

Teaching Artist Intern | *UC Irvine – Creative Connections*

Apr. 2020 – June 2021

Create and execute lesson plans and presentations; Correspond with students and faculty; Assign and review assignments; Create a safe, positive, and inclusive learning environment

Peer Tutor | *UC Irvine Writing Center*

Oct. 2020 – June 2022

Conduct Zoom sessions; Relate to students from a diverse set of backgrounds; Keep accurate records of attendance and referrals; Assist with writing of multiple genres

Technology Assistant | *UC Irvine Music Department*

Mar. 2021 – June 2021

Run ensemble rehearsals; Work with files and programs on remote server; Edit patches with Max; Host JackTrip sessions; Edit videos for concert; Mix for ensemble concerts

HONORS AND AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa | University of California, Irvine | Feb. 2023

Certificate of Recognition | University of California, Irvine | June 2022

Claire Trevor Society Scholarship | University of California, Irvine | Mar. 2021

Cloud Hsueh Foundation Scholarship | University of California, Irvine | May 2020, July 2021

Thomas T. and Elizabeth Tierney Scholarship in Fine Arts | University of California, Irvine | Nov. 2019

Louis Armstrong Award | June 2018

ORGANIZATIONS & COMMITTEES

Phi Beta Kappa | Member | Feb. 2023 – Present

CTSA Climate Council | Member | Jan. 2021 – June 2022

Mu Phi Epsilon | President | Sept. 2018 – Sept. 2020

PERFORMANCES & APPEARANCES

Member of Harry Katz and the Pistachios | 2024

Residency at Pips on La Brea | 2023

Performed with Pilot Touhill | 2023
Performed with Michael Dessen as telematic guest artist for Columbia Residency | 2023
Guest Artist for Embodiology® Summer Program | 2023
Member of Albion Kristof | 2021 – Present
Performed for Celebrate UCI | 2019
Musician in UC Irvine Jazz Orchestra | 2018 – 2022
Performed on more than 25 undergraduate recitals and dissertation concerts | 2018 – 2022
2nd Place at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival | 2017
Essentially Ellington Jazz Festival with Mira Costa High School Jazz I | 2017
Performed with Mira Costa High School's Symphony Band at Carnegie Hall | 2016

COMMISSIONS

Connections | Club Lab Freestyle: Molecules in Motion | June 2024
The Basic Need (To Groove) | UCI Basic Needs Center Documentary | Aug. 2023
Sensual Awakenings | A Subtle Paradox | June 2023
Sounds of Motion | Physical Graffiti | May 2023
Gems | Dance Escape | Apr. 2023
The Jazz Treatment | New Slate | Dec. 2022
Eat Happy | Eat Happy | Dec. 2021

ACADEMIC FESTIVALS & CONFERENCES

ACDA Regional Conference | Composer, Performer | University of California, Irvine | Mar. 2023
Jazz Dance Conference West | Composer, Performer | California State Dominguez Hills | May 2023
The Futures of Higher Education Festival | Presenter | University of California, Irvine | Oct. 2022