Benjamin Marc Irom

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Over 25 years Teaching Experience includes:

- Educating college students in the areas of jazz improvisation, jazz arranging, jazz piano, classical piano, and classical music theory.
- Directing small and large jazz ensembles at both university and junior college levels.
- Professor/Director of Jazz Studies at Temple College
- Director of Jazz Studies at Baylor University for two years
- Adjunct Instructor at Riverside Community College in Southern California for 1 year

PERSONAL DATA

Birthplace: Redlands, California Date of Birth: May 2, 1970 Marital Status: Married Ethnicity: Caucasian

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts

University of Texas at Austin Austin, Texas D.M.A. in Music Composition Area of Specialization: Jazz Studies August 1995 to May 2003

Degree Awarded: May 2003

Dissertation Title: Three Tone Poems for Small Jazz Ensemble and Strings

Dissertation Committee Supervisor: Jeffrey Hellmer, M.M.

Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition/Jazz Studies University of Texas Austin, Texas

Courses taken specifically in preparation for a career in jazz education:

- Jazz Pedagogy A course designed to prepare the teacher for directing large and small ensembles, choosing adequate textbooks, and designing effective syllabi.
- **Jazz Perspectives** A critical study of historical trends and popular opinions surrounding the growth of jazz as an art form.

- Improvisation Styles and Techniques A theoretical analysis of several jazz improvisations, chosen on the basis of their historical and stylistic significance. Assignments consisted of style compositions, solo transcriptions, and written analyses of those transcriptions.
- **Jazz Composition** Individual composition lessons with Professor Richard Lawn, concentrating particularly on strategies used in arranging for larger ensembles and involving an intensive study of historical writing styles.
- Individual Jazz Piano Instruction 3 years of intense study of jazz piano styles and techniques with Professor Jeff Hellmer.

Master of Arts

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

M.A. in Music

Area of Specialization: Music Composition

September 1992 to December 1994 **Degree Awarded: January 1995**

Thesis Title: Six Hebrew Songs for Tenor Voice and Harp

Thesis Committee Chair: Ian Krouse, D.M.A.

Studied composition with Elaine Barkin, Paul Reale, Ian Krouse, Roger Bourland and Manuel Enriquez. Piano performances include graduate student composition recitals and the UCLA Jazz Big Band concerts and competitions.

Bachelor of Arts

University of California, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz, California

B.A. in Music

September 1988 to March 1992

Degree Awarded: March 1992

Studied classical piano with Mary Jane Cope, composition with Professor David Cope, and electronic composition with Peter Elsea. Participated as a pianist in the UCSC Contemporary Chamber Players and the UCSC Jazz Ensembles. Received honors from the UCSC music board for a senior recital that included a solo piano performance of selected 20th Century works as well as chamber performances of original works involving several UCSC music students.

• Summer Course Enabling Credit toward the Bachelor of Arts

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, California

June 1991 to July 1991

Course in Art History -- partially satisfied the general course requirements for the B.A. in Music from The University of California, Santa Cruz

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 2001 Instructor/Director of Jazz Studies (Full Time)

to Temple College, Department of Music

Present Temple, Texas

Courses: MUEN 1124 – Jazz Ensemble

MUEN 1122 – Jazz Orchestra MUEN 1143 – Swing Choir MUSI 1263 – Jazz Improvisation

MUSI 1116 – Elem. Sight Singing/Ear Training I MUSI 1117 – Elem. Sight Singing/Ear Training II MUSI 2116 – Adv. Sight Singing/Ear Training I

MUSI 2117 – Adv. Sight Singing/Ear Training II

MUSI 1114 – Piano Class I MUSI 1115 – Piano Class II MUSI 2114 – Piano Class III MUSI 2115 – Piano Class IV MUSI 1308 – Music Literature I MUSI 1309 – Music Literature I

MUSI 1309 – Music Literature II MUSI 1311 – Music Theory I

MUSI 1312 – Music Theory II MUSI 2311 – Music Theory III

MUSI 2312 – Music Theory IV MUSI 1310 – American Music

MUSC 1327 – Audio Engineering I

Description: Direct two 20-piece jazz bands and prepare them for concerts each semester, direct vocal jazz ensemble, direct small jazz combos, organize annual Temple College Jazz Festival (hiring guest artists, adjudicators, scheduling band performances, marketing and advertising), engage the bands in regional jazz festivals, recruit students to participate in the music program, teach general music major classes as listed.

August 1998 **Lecturer (Full Time)**

o Baylor University, Department of Music

May 2000 Waco, Texas

Courses: Music 106 – Jazz Ensembles I and II

Music 4219 – Jazz Pedagogy Music 3310 – Jazz Improvisation Music 3203 – Jazz Arranging Music 1101 – Musicianship I Music 1102 – Musicianship II Music 1122 – Class Piano I & II

Description: Direct two 18-piece jazz bands and prepare them for two concerts each semester, bring in guest artists to work/perform with the jazz bands, engage the bands in regional jazz festivals, recruit students to participate in the jazz program, teach jazz classroom management and directing techniques to music education majors, teach jazz improvisation and arranging to interested music majors, lead students in the practice of melodic sight singing using solfege syllables, melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic dictation; teach basic piano skills to non-keyboard music majors. Other duties have included

supervising graduate assistants and sitting on Master's thesis committees.

January 1996 to May 1998 **Assistant Instructor**

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Music

Austin, Texas

Course: Music 207S – Jazz Lab Band

Description: Directed a 10-piece jazz band and prepared them for

concerts in each of the two semesters. Supervisor: Professor Jeff Hellmer

Course: Music 107S – Small Jazz Ensembles

Description: Coached a 6-piece jazz combo and helped its

members prepare for the end-of-semester concert.

Supervisor: Professor Jeff Hellmer

Course: Music 218J – Beginning Jazz Improvisation

Description: Introduced basic concepts of jazz improvisation using

models of standard jazz repertoire.

Supervisor: John Fremgen

Course: Music 605A & B – 1st Level Music Theory

Description: Lectures involved discussion of music fundamentals, two-voice counterpoint, and introduced Bach chorale-style four-part writing. Students were also expected to learn skills in

interval, melodic, and harmonic dictation.

Supervisor: Dr. Stefan Kostka

Course: Music 605B Lab – 1st Level Ear Training

Description: Led students in the practice of melodic sightsinging using both scale-degree numbers and solvege syllables, melodic,

harmonic, and rhythmic dictation.

Supervisor: Dr. Roger Graybill

September 1994 to

May 1995

Adjunct Instructor

Riverside Community College, Department of Music

Riverside, California

Courses Taught: Harmony I and II, Music Appreciation

Description: Taught both intermediate and advanced music theory classes. Material included chronological evolution of music harmony from Baroque to Contemporary periods in music history. Music history course was an overview of Western art music from Gregorian Chant to early 20th Century.

Supervisor: Charles Richard

September 1993

Teaching Assistant

to June 1994 University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California

Computer/Keyboard Lab Assistant

Description: Assisted students with the understanding of how to use all lab equipment, including computer hardware and MIDI software, and how to program synthesizers and sequencers.

Supervisor: Tom Withey

Course: Music 136C – History of Musical Theater

Description: Led two weekly discussions in musical trends that accompanied selected Broadway musicals. Also taught basic

music skills designed for non-music majors.

Supervisor: Professor John Hall

April 1992 **Substitute Teacher**

to Redlands Unified School District

September 1992 Redlands, California

Description: Services were offered for all class levels, from Kindergarten through 12th grade, most of which involved teaching at Redlands High School. Long-term assignment constituted presiding over Kenneth Tuttle's lower-level choral classes for one week while he was on tour with his RHS

Chamber Singers.

March 1990 Reader

to University of California, Santa Cruz

June 1990 Santa Cruz, California

Course: Music 13A -- Beginning Theory and Musicianship

Description: Involved teaching two sets of students twice per week. Topics included beginning ear training (melodic, harmonic, rhythmic dictation, and sightsinging), elementary keyboard

skills, and basic principles of music theory.

Supervisor: Professor Paul Rinzler

September 1989 Reader

to University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Music

December 1989 Santa Cruz, California

Course: Music 80E -- History of Jazz

Description: Lead review sessions before midterm and final

examinations; graded papers and exams.

Supervisor: Professor Paul Rinzler

COMPOSITIONS / ARRANGEMENTS

Large-Scale Jazz Works

2003 – **Doctoral Dissertation**

Three Tone Poems for Small Jazz Ensemble and Strings
A three-movement piece that draws from differing world cultures and theoretical practices, adapted to demonstrate my personal approach to composition.

1999 – <u>African Skies</u> (Michael Brecker), arranged by Benjamin Irom A big band arrangement of a tune by saxophonist Michael Brecker. Mr. Brecker, who originally requested the arrangement, premiered the piece with the University of Texas Jazz Orchestra at the 1999 University of Texas Longhorn Jazz Festival.

1998 – Borodin, for studio orchestra

Combines elements of the primary theme of the third movement from Alexander Borodin's <u>String Quartet No. 2</u> with original jazz harmonies and rhythms.

Performance Date: October 16, 1998 by the UT Studio Orchestra, directed by Jeff Hellmer (Premiere).

Publication Pending

1997 – Dizzy's Mad Cow, for 9-piece jazz ensemble

A fast swing chart inspired by Dizzy Gillespie and Oprah Winfrey. Performance Date: Spring 1998, University of Texas AIME Ensemble Publication Pending

1997 – You're Soaking In It, for big band

A fusion of jazz, funk, and rock music styles.

Performance Dates:

- Fall 1997, UT Jazz Orchestra (Premiere)
- November 23, 1998, Baylor Jazz Ensemble

Published 1998 by UNC Jazz Press

1996 – A Nod to Cee-Cee, for big band

A big band tribute to the modern Latin style of Chick Corea.

Performance Dates:

- Fall 1996, UT Jazz Orchestra (Premiere)
- January 1997, UT Jazz Orchestra performance at the 1997 IAJE conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Published 1998 by UNC Jazz Press

1995 - Who?, for big band

Large ensemble arrangement of one of my small combo tunes.

Performance Dates:

- Spring 1995, Riverside Community College Big Band (Premiere)
- Spring 1996, UT Jazz Orchestra
- November 23, 1998, Baylor Jazz Ensemble

Published 1998 by UNC Jazz Press

Classical Pieces

1996 – <u>Rhapsodic Variations</u>, for Flute, Violin, Cello, and Piano Utilizes melodic and harmonic fragments from Jewish liturgy.

1995 – Master's Thesis

Six Hebrew Songs, for Tenor Voice and Harp

Texts by Amir Gilboa, Nathan Sach, S. Shalom, and Tuvya Rübner Performance Dates:

- May 1994, First four songs performed by Gary Bachlund, tenor, and Stephanie Kaufman, harp, in Jan Popper Theater, UCLA.
- Spring 1996, Entire cycle performed by Oliver Worthington, tenor, and Shanna Norton, harp, in Bates Auditorium, UT Austin.

1993 – We Are Clay, for SATB choir and organ Text by Rabbi Michael Hecht.

- 1992 <u>Concentric Circles of Twelve</u>, for six strings, six winds, and two percussionists.

 Premiered May 1993 in Schoenberg Auditorium, UCLA.
- 1992 <u>United Being</u>, for voice and piano
 Sung by Cantor Gregory Yaroslow and accompanied by the composer at the wedding of Christopher and Rachel Needham, to whom the song is dedicated. Taken from the marriage texts of the Ba'al Shem Tov.
- 1991 <u>A Comet's Perspective</u>, for string quartet. Premiered March 7, 1992 in UCSC Concert Hall, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1991 <u>Alice in Wonderland</u>, for synthesizer and percussion.
 A modern musical production directed by Bonnie Reese.
 Performed November 14-17, 1991 in UCSC Concert Hall, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1990 <u>Los Pasos del Gato</u>, for clarinet and piano. Premiered March 7, 1992 in UCSC Concert Hall, Santa Cruz, CA.

RECORDINGS

- One O'Clock Jump. Meanwhile...As the City Sleeps.... Austin, TX: Biondi Productions, 1999.
- One O'Clock Jump. <u>Live at Ringside</u>. Austin, TX: Biondi Productions, 1998.
- UT Jazz Orchestra. Sixth Floor Jazz. Austin, TX: UT School of Music, 1998.
- The Jazzaholics. Who?. Austin, TX: Fable Records, 1997.
- Con Rumba Son, Havana Nights. Austin, TX: Cubita, 1998.
- Tony "Ham" Guerrero y la Nueva Generación, (self-titled). Corpus Christi, TX: Hacienda Records, 2000.
- Tortilla Factory, A New Generation. Austin, TX: Zaragoza Productions, 2002.
- Henry Brun & The Latin Playerz, <u>Spiritual Awakenings</u>. San Antonio, TX: Pulsar Records, 2004.
- Temple Jazz Orchestra, <u>This Is TJO</u>. Temple, TX: Temple College, 2006.
- Temple Symphony Orchestra, <u>An American Salute (feat. Allen Vizzutti)</u>. Temple, TX: Temple Symphony Orchestra, 2007.
- Temple Jazz Orchestra, <u>Temple Jazz Orchestra featuring Gordon Goodwin</u>. Temple, TX: Temple College, 2008.
- Temple Jazz Orchestra, <u>Light Up The Night (featuring Bill Watrous)</u>. Temple, TX: Temple College, 2008.
- Henry Brun & The Latin Playerz, <u>Rhythms and Reeds... A Tribute to the Master</u> Duke Ellington. San Antonio, TX: Pulsar Records, 2009.

Keith Fiala, Messages from the Other Side. Austin, TX: Keith Fiala, 2013.

GroovesKool, Atomcol, Austin, TX: GroovesKool. 2016

PROFESSIONAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- Central Texas Jazz Society Vice President 2007-2016, Secretary 2016-Present
- Academie Musique of Central Texas President 2016-Present
- Texas Community College Band Directors Association (TCCBDA) Jazz Coordinator 2008-2013
- International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) Secretary 2002-2004
- Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA)
- Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA)
- Texas Jazz Educators Association (TJEA)
- Jazz Education Network (JEN)
- College Music Society (CMS)

ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- April 2019 Directed the Temple Jazz Orchestra as headliner for the 10th Annual Georgetown Jazz Festival (Georgetown, TX)
- January 2019 Performed with the Russell Haight Quartet at the Jazz Education Network conference (Reno, NV)
- November 2017 Clinician for the TMEA Region 8 High School Jazz Ensemble (Temple, TX)
- April 2016 Adjudicator at the University of Texas Longhorn Jazz Festival (Austin, TX)
- February 2016 Clinician for the TMEA Region 15 High School Jazz Band II (Edinburg, TX)
- April 2015 Performed with GroovesKool at the 2015 Katy Jazz Festival (Katy, TX)
- March 2014 Performed with TC Fusion at the Leander ISD Jazz Festival (Leander, TX)
- March 2014 Performed with the Temple College Faculty Jazz Septet at the University of Memphis Jazz Week
- February 2014 Performed in David Guidi's faculty recital at Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)
- February 2014 Performed with the CTJS All-Star Band featuring Calabria Foti at the Fourth Annual CTJS Jazz Party (Temple, TX)
- November 2013 Clinician for the ATSSB Region 2 Jazz Ensemble (Justin, TX)
- May 2013 Performed with TC colleague Teri Johnson for the Georgetown Symphony Society's Music Enrichment Program for 4th and 5th graders at the Klett Center for the Performing Arts (Georgetown, TX)
- April 2013 Performed with members of the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" in a concert entitled "The Music of Steely Day" (Fort Myer, VA)
- September 2012 Performed in Eric Stone Miller's faculty recital at Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX)
- April 2012 Adjudicator at the University of Texas Longhorn Jazz Festival (Austin, TX)
- February 2011 Adjudicator at the Texas State University Hill Country Jazz Festival (San Marcos, TX)
- May 2010 Adjudicator at the CENTEX Jazz Festival (Waco, TX)

- February 2010 Performed Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert at Huston-Tillotson University for the Austin Chamber Music Center's 8th Annual Black History Concert (Austin, TX)
- November 2008 Clinician for the ATSSB Region 18/26 Jazz Band (Hutto, TX)
- July & August 2007 Musical Director/Pianist for the Temple Civic Theater's production of *The Music Man* (Temple, TX)
- January 2007 Performed with the Temple Jazz Orchestra at the 2007 Conference of the International Association of Jazz Educators in New York. Among the pieces featured was my arrangement of Michael Brecker's *African Skies*. Also, performed with guest artist Bill Watrous.
- November 2006 Clinician for the TMEA Region 8 Jazz Orchestra
- November 1999 Guest pianist in concert with the Temple College Jazz Ensemble in Temple, Texas.
- May 1999 Invited by Greg Van Winkle, Director of Bands at Milwaukie High School in Portland, Oregon, to conduct a jazz improvisation lecture and clinic for his jazz ensemble.
- January 1997 Performed with the UT Jazz Orchestra at the 24th Annual Conference of the International Association of Jazz Educators in Chicago, Illinois. Among the pieces featured was my composition *A Nod to Cee-Cee*.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL / CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

- May 2019 Traveled to Ireland with the Temple College Chorale as piano accompanist. Performed at churches in Kilkenny and Waterford.
- July 2012 Traveled to Europe with the Temple Jazz Orchestra. Performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival (Montreux, Switzerland), Jazz a Vienne (Vienne, France), the United Nations (Geneva, Switzerland), and a jazz club in Vienna, Austria.
- July 2009 Traveled to Europe with the Temple Jazz Orchestra. Performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival (Montreux, Switzerland), the North Sea Jazz Festival (Rotterdam, Holland), Jazz a Vienne (Vienne, France), the United States Mission to the UN (Geneva, Switzerland). Among the pieces performed was my composition *A Nod to Cee-Cee*. Also, performed with guest artist Randy Brecker.
- June 21-29, 1997 Invited by the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano to
 participate with two other UT students in a cultural exchange program in San
 José, Costa Rica. Activities included local radio interviews, providing a jazz
 workshop for students in the School of Music at the Universidad de Costa Rica,
 and performing in a public concert of both traditional and original jazz
 compositions.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1994 Graduate Departmental Award in Music, UCLA (\$1500.00)
- 1992 Honors awarded by the UCSC Music Board for senior recital.
- 1992 Finalist in the UCSC Music Board Scholarship Competition for piano.
- 1992 2nd Place in Music Teachers Association Scholarship Competition for piano.
- 1991 2nd Place in Music Teachers Association Scholarship Competition for piano.

TECHNICAL AND SPECIALIZED SKILLS

• Computer Hardware

Apple Macintosh and IBM PC Operating Systems MIDI Appliances and Assorted Gear

• Computer Software

Microsoft Word Microsoft Excel Finale (music notation) ProTools (recording)

• Basic Analog and Digital Sound Synthesis

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

• Basic reading and conversational abilities in French

REFERENCES

• Brent Colwell

Division Director of Fine Arts Temple College 2600 South First Street Temple, Texas 76504 (254) 298-8574 brent.colwell@templejc.edu

• Dr. Sara Baker

Music Department Chair Temple College 2600 South First Street Temple, Texas 76504 (254) 298-8561 sara.baker@templejc.edu

• Dr. Michael Jacobson

Professor of Saxophone/Associate Dean of Operations School of Music One Bear Place Baylor University Waco, Texas 76798-7408 (254) 710-3571 Michael_Jacobson@baylor.edu

• Richard Lawn

Emeritus Faculty, Dean's Office Performing Arts The University of the Arts Terra Hall 717C 320 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 717-6030 rlawn@uarts.edu

• Jeffrey Hellmer

Associate Director, Academic Affairs Professor of Jazz Studies School of Music University of Texas at Austin Austin, Texas 78712 (512) 471-0744 jhellmer@austin.utexas.edu

• Charles Richard

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