

BEN ALLISON

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Award-winning Bassist, Composer, Arranger, Bandleader, Mixing Engineer, Producer
Internationally Recognized Educator and Clinician
Palmetto Records Recording Artist (1998-2012)
Sonic Camera Records Owner and Recording Artist (2013-present)
Executive Director & Composer-in-Residence, The Jazz Composers Collective
President, NY Chapter, The Recording Academy

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Touring and Recording Bassist, Composer and Bandleader, 1990-present

- Leader of the Ben Allison Band, Ben Allison & Think Free, The Easy Way Trio, Man Size Safe, Peace Pipe, Ben Allison & Medicine Wheel
- Main artist, bassist, composer, arranger and producer on 16 award-winning albums of original compositions and/or arrangements of varied repertoire
- Performed and organized over 150 national and international tours as a bandleader
- Headlined at countless national and international festivals, concert series and special events, including the North Sea Jazz Festival, San Francisco Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, Newport Jazz Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Mito Settembre Musica, Seixal Jazz Festival, and London Jazz Festival, among many others
- Composed, arranged and produced music for radio, television, film, and theater, including the theme for NPR's *On the Media* (which is heard by over 2 million listeners weekly), the score for *Two Days*, a play by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Donald Margulies, and themes for brands such as TIAA-CREF, GlaxoSmithKline, Charles Schwab and many others
- Received numerous commissioning and performing grants from The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Chamber Music America, The Aaron Copeland Fund for Music, and The National Endowment for the Arts, among others
- Featured performer on over 65 live radio and TV broadcasts (national and international)
- Featured performer with the Jazz Sinfonica, 80-piece symphony orchestra, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2005, 2008 & 2013
- Played bass on over 70 commercially released albums, various artists

NONPROFIT ARTS LEADERSHIP

Founder, Executive Director, Composer-in-Residence, The Jazz Composers Collective, 1992-2005

- Founded non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering, presenting, and building audiences for new music in the jazz idiom
- Developed vision, mission, strategic plan, and fundraising strategy in close collaboration with the Board of Directors for the formation of an arts organization focused on the creation of new music, serving the New York City community
- Directed all aspects of the Collective's programming, including its annual concert series, educational outreach activities, annual jazz festival and residencies with arts and educational institutions in the US (Museum of Modern Art, New School), Europe (Oxford University, Southampton University) and Brazil (Campinas Arts Center, US Embassy Louis Armstrong Arts Program, Souza Lima Music Academy)
- Produced over 100 concerts featuring 50 composers, the premiere of over 300 new works and the participation of over 250 musicians
- Authored over 30 successful grant proposals for the commissioning and/or recording of new music, the touring of Collective projects, and general operating expenditures; produced annual fund drive
- Produced, moderated and marketed an educational series in partnership with the Jazz and Contemporary Music Program at the New School University

Board of Governors, The Recording Academy, New York Chapter, 2011-2020

Advocacy Committee Chair, 2012-2016 & 2018-2020

Vice President, 2014-2015

President, 2016-2018

- As President, organized and lead regular board meetings of New York chapter, chaired Executive Committee and Nominating Committee, served on Membership Committee (ex officio), and Education Committee (ex officio)
- Member of National Presidents Council
- Acted as Alternate Trustee at bi-annual National Trustee board meetings
- Oversaw chapter programming and initiatives, including annual Nominee Reception Gala, and member services and events, including "Up Close and Personal" events with influential performers, songwriters, producers and engineers.
- Organize first ever Grammy Town Hall event. Moderated panel discussions with industry-leading performers, songwriters, publishers, record label executives, technology company executives.
- In conjunction with Academy legal team, developed language and advocated for NY State Music Production Tax Credit. Met with NY State Governor's office and other state assemblyman and senators
- Met with Members of Congress in Washington, DC and New York to advocate for music-related and copyright reform legislation, which resulted in passage of the Music Modernization Act (2018). Helped organize and attended national and state advocacy events, including Grammys on the Hill and Grammys in My District.
- Testified before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in support of performing rights (2012)

DISCOGRAPHY**AS A LEADER/CO-LEADER:**

Ben Allison, *Moments Inside* (Sonic Camera, 2021) – bassist, composer, mixer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Quiet Revolution* (Sonic Camera, 2018) – bassist, composer, mixer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Layers Of The City*, (Sonic Camera, 2017) – bassist, composer, mixer, producer
 Ben Allison, *The Stars Look Very Different Today* (Sonic Camera, 2013) – bassist, composer, mixer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Action-Refraction* (Palmetto, 2011) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Think Free* (Palmetto, 2009) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Little Things Run the World* (Palmetto, 2008) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Cowboy Justice* (Palmetto, 2006) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Buzz* (Palmetto, 2004) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Peace Pipe* (Palmetto, 2002) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison, *Riding the Nuclear Tiger* (Palmetto, 2001) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison & Frank Kimbrough, The Herbie Nichols Project, *Strange City* (Soul Note, 2001)
 Ben Allison, *Third Eye* (Palmetto, 1999) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison & Frank Kimbrough, The Herbie Nichols Project, *Dr. Cyclops' Dream* (Soul Note, 1999)
 Ben Allison, *Medicine Wheel* (Palmetto, 1998) – bassist, composer, producer
 Ben Allison & Frank Kimbrough, The Herbie Nichols Project, *Love Is Proximity* (Soul Note, 1997)
 Ben Allison, *Seven Arrows* (Koch, 1995) – bassist, composer, producer

AS SUPPORTING or FEATURED ARTIST, PRODUCER, MIXING ENGINEER (partial list):

Steven Bernstein, *Community Music Vol 1. Tinctures in Time* (Royal Potato Family, 2021) – bassist
 Steven Bernstein, *Community Music Vol 2. Good Time Music* (Royal Potato Family, 2021)
 Steven Bernstein, *Community Music Vol 4. Popular Culture* (Royal Potato Family, 2021) – bassist
 Ted Nash, *Transformations* (Plastic Sax, 2021) - mixer
 Dave Bass, *The Trio Vol. 1* (Whaling City Sound) - mixer, mastering engineer
 Steve Cardenas, *Blue Has A Range* (Sunnyside, 2020) - bassist, co-producer, mixer
 Dave Glasser, *Hypocrisy Democracy* (Here Tiz, 2020) - bassist
 Ted Nash, *West Side Story Songs* (Plastic Sax, 2019) - bassist, mixer, co-producer
 Michael Wolff, *Bounce* (Sunnyside, 2019) - bassist, composer
 Dave Bass, *No Boundaries* (Whaling City Sound) - mixer, co-producer
 Michael Wolff, *Swirl* (Sunnyside, 2018) - bassist, composer
 Greg Cordez, *Last Things Last* (2017) - producer
 Camille Thurman, *Inside the Moment* (Chesky, 2017) - bassist
 Mark Whitfield, *Live and Uncut* (Chesky, 2017) - bassist
 Pete Malinverni, *Heaven* (Saranac, 2016) - bassist
 Will Bernard, *Out & About* (Positone, 2016) - bassist
 Jeremy Pelt, *Tales, Musings and Other Reveries* (Highnote, 2015) - bassist
 Michael Blake, *Tiddy Boom* (Sunnyside 2014) - bassist
 Michael Blake, Ben Allison, Rudy Royston, *Union Square* (ABeat, 2013) - bassist, composer, mixer
 Steven Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra, *MTO Plays Sly* (Royal Potato Family, 2011)
 Steve Cardenas, *West of Middle* (Sunnyside, 2010) - bassist
 Steven Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra, *We Are MTO* (Sunnyside, 2008) - bassist
 Ron Horton, *It's a Gadget World* (ABeat, 2007) - bassist
 Larry Goldings, *Quartet* (Palmetto, 2006) - bassist
 Ted Nash, *In The Loop* (Palmetto, 2006) - bassist
 Steven Bernstein's Millennial Territory Orchestra, *Vol. 1* (Sunnyside, 2006) - bassist
 Michael Blake Trio, *Right Before Your Very Ears* (Clean Feed, 2005) - bassist
 Curtis Stigers, *I Think It's Going to Rain Today* (Concord, 2004) - bassist
 Frank Kimbrough, *Lullabluebye* (Palmetto, 2004) - bassist, composer
 Curtis Stigers, *You Inspire Me* (Concord, 2003) - bassist
 Lou Reed, *The Raven* (Sire Records, 2003) - bassist
 Ron Horton, *Subtextures* (Fresh Sounds New Talent, 2003) - bassist

Ted Nash, *Still Evolved* (Palmetto, 2003) - bassist
Michael Blake, *Elevated* (Knitting Factory, 2002) - bassist
Michael Blake, *Drift* (Intuition, 2001) - bassist
Ted Nash Double Quartet, *Rhyme & Reason* (Arabesque, 1999) - bassist
Ron Horton, *Genius Envy* (OmniTone, 1999) - bassist
Frank Kimbrough, *Chant* (Igmod, 1998) - bassist
Frank Kimbrough, *Quickening* (OmniTone, 1998) - bassist
Lee Konitz, *Rhapsody II* (Evidence, 1993) - bassist
Lee Konitz, *Rhapsody* (Evidence, 1993) - bassist
Ted Nash, *Out of This World* (Mapleshade, 1991) – bassist

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Artist, Ensemble Instructor, 2011 - 2018

New York University Summer Jazz Program, New York, NY

- Summer Session: *Music of Ben Allison*; Workshop, Performance & Recording

Part Time Teaching Professor, 2011-present

New School University, College of Performing Arts (CoPA), New York, NY

- *Socially Engaged Artistry*, co-developed new course with CoPA Core group (2020)
- *Entrepreneurship In Music* (2015-present), developed new course
- *Senior Seminar* (2015-present), developed new course
- *The Entrepreneurial Musician* (2017-present), developed new course
- *Take Me To The River* (2019), co-developed new course
- *Improvisation Ensemble* (2015)
- *R & B Ensemble* (2014-2015)
- *Electric Miles Davis Ensemble* (2013)
- *The Thelonious Monk Ensemble* (2011)
- *New Composers Workshop* (2001)
- *The Music of Herbie Nichols* (1998-2000)
- Private Bass & Composition Instructor (1996-present)

Additional Duties/Committees:

- University Faculty Senate Co-chair (2021-22)
- University Faculty Senator (2020-present)
- University Faculty Senate Part Time Faculty Affairs Committee (2021-present)
- Shared Governance Committee (2020-present)
- Jazz Executive Committee (2019, 2021)
- CoPA Executive Committee (2020)
- Senior Recital Adjudicator (2011-present)
- Performance Jury Adjudicator (2011-present)
- Admissions Review, Auditions + Interview (2019-present)
- Faculty Support, Starfish/Canvas training (2018-2020)

Visiting Artist, Ensemble Instructor, 2013

Fundacion Tonica, Guadalajara, Mexico

- Summer Jazz Intensive: Improvisation Ensemble
- Bass Masterclass

Visiting Artist, Ensemble Instructor, 2010

St Louis College of Music, Rome, Italy

- Summer Session: *Music of Ben Allison*; Workshop, Performance

Teaching Artist, 2009-2010

Weill Music Center, Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

- The American Spiritual

Visiting Artist, Ensemble Instructor, 2009-2011

Sienna Jazz Foundation, Sienna, Italy

- Summer Session: *Music of Ben Allison*; Workshop, Performance
- Spring Session: *Music of Ben Allison*; Workshop, Performance

Visiting Artist, 2008

Associazione Culturale OZ, Casalborgone, Italy

- Inter-Disciplinary Workshop; *New Work Creation & Performance*

Guitar Instructor, 1990-1998

Third Street Music School, New York, NY

- Individual Guitar and Bass Instruction, Jazz Ensemble

WORKSHOPS / RESIDENCIES (partial list):

Sacramento State University (Sacramento, CA)
 Capilano College (Vancouver, Canada)
 Rio Americano High School (Sacramento, CA)
 McNally Smith College of Music (Minneapolis, MN)
 Sonoma State University (Sonoma, CA)
 University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (Stevens Point, WI)
 Knox College (Galesburg, IL)
 University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL)
 University of Maryland, Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)
 Old Town School of Folk Music (Chicago, IL)
 Oxford University (Oxford, England)
 New England Conservatory (Boston, MA)
 Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA)
 Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Copenhagen, Denmark)
 Souza Lima (San Paulo, Brazil)
 University of Southampton (Southampton, England)
 Koninklijk Conservatory (Antwerpen, Belgium)
 Brown University (Providence, RI)
 Yale University (New Haven, CT)
 New York University (New York, NY)
 Mannes College of Music (New York, NY)
 Educational Center for the Arts (New Haven, CT)
 Fieldston School (Riverdale, NY)
 University of North Carolina (Charlotte, NC)
 Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)
 University of North Carolina (Greensboro)
 Humboldt State University (Arcata, CA)
 High School for the Performing Arts (Houston, TX)
 Lycee Francais (New York, NY)
 Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)
 Truman State University (Kirksville, MO)
 University of Missouri (Kansas City, MO)
 University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
 Penn State University (University Park, PA)
 State University of New York (Purchase, NY)
 William Paterson University (Wayne, NJ)
 Manhattan School of Music (New York, NY)
 Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)
 Minnesota State University (Moorhead, MN)
 University of North Florida (Jacksonville, FL)
 University Of Maine (Augusta, ME)
 Binghamton University (Binghamton, NY)
 University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)
 Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI)
 Houston Community College (Houston, TX)
 University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
 Cornish College (Seattle, WA)

Columbia University (New York, NY)
University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)

AWARDS / CITATIONS

SESAC Awards For National Radio Airplay:

- 2018: *Quiet Revolution* (#9 national jazz radio charts)
- 2014: *The Stars Look Very Different Today* (#5 national jazz radio charts)
- 2011: *Action-Refraction* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2010: *Think Free* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2009: *Little Things Run the World* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2007: *Cowboy Justice* (#2 national jazz radio charts)
- 2006: *Buzz* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2003: *Peace Pipe* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2002: *Riding The Nuclear Tiger* (#1 national jazz radio charts)
- 2000: *Third Eye* (#1 national jazz radio charts)

Downbeat Critics Poll:

- 2010-2020: Bassist
- 2010-2020: Composer
- 2002-2011: Rising Star Bassist (Poll Winner 2005, 2006, 2007)
- 2003-2016: Rising Star Composer, Arranger, Artist, Group

2005 Bird Award, Netherlands

Previous recipients include Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Pat Metheny, Stefano Bollani, Ray Brown, Ornette Coleman, Sonny Rollins, Christian Scott, Joe Zawinul, Misha Mengelberg, and Han Bennick, among others

CONFERENCES / PANELIST (partial list)

- Panelist, Jazz as Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Washington DC, 2020
- Host/Panelist, Jazz as Diplomacy, New School University, New York, NY 2018-2019
- Host/Keynote Address, Grammy Town Hall, New York, NY 2016
- Moderator, Performing Arts Panel, CoPA, The New School University, New York, NY 2016
- Panelist, "The Empire State Music Production Tax Credit," MondoNYC, New York, NY 2016
- Moderator, Grammy Town Hall, New York, NY 2015
- Panelist, "Where's the Money?" JazzConnect Conference, New York, NY 2015
- Congressional Testimony, "The Future of Audio," US House Committee on Energy and Commerce (2012)
- Panelist, "Translating the Intimate Spontaneity of the Club to the Concert Stage," NY State Arts Presenters Summer Symposium, Saratoga, NY, 2011.
- Panelist, "The Artist Collective in Jazz: Unity and Diversity in the New York Scene," International Association of Jazz Educators Conference, New York, NY, 2007.
- Panelist, "Has the Internet Helped Jazz?" International Association of Jazz Educators Conference, New York, NY, 2004.
- Participant, "Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: Jazz Initiative," Montreal Jazz Festival, 2003.
- Participant, "Jazz Task Force" (launch of pilot program which became The New Jazz Works program, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation), Chamber Music America, New York, NY, 2001

PUBLICATIONS (partial list)

Will The New York Music Production Tax Credit Help Your Business?, SonicScoop, 2016

Ornette Coleman, A Top Ten List, JazzTimes, 2011

Groove is in the Heart, Premiere Guitar, 2011

The Music of Dave Holland, JazzTimes, 2010 (contributor)

The Socially Networked Musician, Bass World (International Society of Bassists), 2009

My Approach to Composition, Downbeat, 2005

Notes Are Overrated, Bass Player, 2004

My Favorite Records, Double Bassist, April 2003

Different Generations, Same Realizations, All About Jazz, March 2003

Liner Notes, *Herbie Nichols: The Complete Blue Note Recordings*, 1997

EDUCATION**New York University, New York, NY, 1989**

B. A. Music Performance

- Major fields of study: Acoustic Bass Performance, Composition
- University Scholar (1985-1989)

Yale University, New Haven, CT, 1984-1985

- 20th Century Music (fall semester)
- Child Psychology (spring semester)

Educational Center for the Arts, New Haven, CT, 1983-1985