

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire



Jazz Ensemble I

Under the direction of
Mr. Robert Baca
February 16, 2024

UW-EAU CLAIRE - JAZZ STUDIES

Looking for a school to pursue your love of jazz at the highest dream level or to keep playing in a jazz ensemble while pursuing other interests outside music? UW- Eau Claire is your destination. Recently recognized by the New York Times as “...one of the most well-regarded jazz programs in the country.”, we are proud of receiving some of the highest awards available to educational institutions including the Down Beat Award for “Best College Big Band” eight times, and two Grammy nominations, along with recording 21 CD’s.

UW-Eau Claire Jazz Program has graduated alumni who now enjoy the fruits at the top of their fields from Broadway performers on Broadway in New York City, composing for Lucas Film and Television, teaching in colleges, high schools, and middle schools across the country. They have established bands that perform at Dizzy’s Coca Cola and the Hollywood Bowl, which are some of the nation’s top jazz venues in New York City and Los Angeles, and earning management positions including Chicago Symphony, Blue Note Jazz Club, and Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

Most importantly, UW-Eau Claire is an ALL-undergraduate school. With all your peers being 18-22 years old, you are not competing for bands and chairs with masters and doctorate level students. All learning takes place in some of the most beautiful northwoods scenery surrounded by five lakes and “Wisconsin’s Most Beautiful Campus”.



All Inclusive Vibrant Environment

UW-Eau Claire prepares students for today's music industry by NOT offering a Jazz Studies Degree. The world is changing and for our students to be successful in it, they need to be trained in all music. When coming to UW-Eau Claire as a music major, the curriculum is primarily classical to give a solid foundation for expressing yourself musically in any genre, including jazz, at the highest level.

"If not a Jazz Studies Degree, how do students receive necessary training in jazz arranging, composition, improvisation and pedagogy for teaching?" The same way our innovators received it; through a rich buzzing environment of over 100 students and faculty participating in four big bands, endless combos, and countless events and projects to play and write for. Training also comes from improvisation, combo classes and no less than forty on going projects assigned to individuals by jazz faculty on every jazz instrument.

One could compare learning at UW-Eau Claire like being part of an apprenticeship. The more involved you become, the more individual instruction becomes available. The UW-Eau Claire students learn by playing jazz gigs on an average of six nights a week in the surrounding Eau Claire area. Because there is no jazz major, participation is voluntary, enabling any level of interest.

Entrepreneurship: Music Business

Whatever you will be doing post-graduation, in today's job industry, an entrepreneurial mind will be essential. You must be organized and have business skills to compete effectively in whatever you pursue. In 2009, Eau Claire Jazz Inc. was created with a motto of "Educate, Entertain, and Inspire". ECJI is a real-world business partnership between the university and the Eau Claire community that operates one of the largest jazz festivals in the country, organizes a recreation of New York's 52nd Street jazz scene from 1938-1952, runs a gig booking agency and puts on a Gatsby Gala party attended by 1,000 people of all ages.

Eau Claire Jazz Inc. has its own set of offices and is operated by music and various business degree students. Mentorship comes from the ECJI board made up of the top business executives in the Eau Claire area. In addition, participants in Eau Claire Jazz Inc. take an entrepreneurial approach to all Jazz Studies operations including concert presentation and a jazz series of five renowned guests per semester.

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Jazz Ensemble I

Robert Baca, director

Program

(To be selected from the following)

Can't We Be Friends <i>Hannah Harder, Tenor Saxophone</i>	Kay Swift, Paul James <i>arr. Adi Yeshaya</i>
Hi George <i>Zach Luginbill, Piano</i> <i>Chris Boelke, Trombone</i>	Adi Yeshaya
In The Move <i>Jonah Walt, Tenor Saxophone</i>	Adi Yeshaya
Old Devil Moon <i>Hannah Harder, Tenor Saxophone</i> <i>Zach Luginbill, Piano</i>	Burton Lane, Yip Harburg <i>arr. Adi Yeshaya</i>
Stella by Starlight <i>Aidan Buck, Trumpet</i> <i>Hannah Harder, Tenor Saxophone</i>	Victor Young <i>arr. Adi Yeshaya</i>
Tones for a Land In Blue <i>Chris Boelke, Trombone</i> <i>Aidan Buck, Flugelhorn</i>	Adi Yeshaya
The Night Has a Thousand Eyes <i>Dr. Aaron Hedenstrom, Alto Saxophone</i>	Benjamin Weisman, Dorothy Wayne, Marilyn Garrett <i>arr. Adi Yeshaya</i>
Cherokee <i>Featuring the Trombone Section</i>	Ray Noble <i>arr. Curt Miller</i>
Take the "A" Train <i>Chris Boelke, trombone</i> <i>Aidan Buck/Ethan Cecil, trumpet</i>	Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn <i>arr. Don Sebesky</i>
Assassin <i>Jake Shockman, alto saxophone</i> <i>Jonah Walt, tenor saxophone</i>	Cory Wong, Michael B. Nelson <i>arr. Keith Karns</i>

Recordings and Information
about University of Wisconsin
- Eau Claire Jazz Studies can
be found by scanning this QR
code.



Jazz Ensemble I Roster

Alto

Jake Shockman - Anoka, MN

Michael Richter - Edina, MN

Tenor

Hannah Harder – Elk River, MN

Jonah Walt - Hastings, MN

Baritone Saxophone

Ethan Moehr - Sun Prairie, WI

Trumpet

Griffin Loudermilk - Bloomington, IN

Aidan Buck – Waconia, MN

Dylan Butler – Wausau, WI

Ethan Cecil – Urbandale, IA

Trombone

Chris Boelke – Eden Prairie, MN

Jacob Miller - Savage, MN

Addie Monk - Kenosha, WI

Matt Sandler – Prior Lake, MN

Piano

Zach Luginbill – Eau Claire, WI

Bass

Merrick Wales - Beloit, WI

Guitar

Eli Miller - Oconomowoc, WI

Drums

Nick Adams – Maple Grove, MN



Robert Baca

Robert Baca is Professor of Trumpet and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is the conductor of Jazz Ensembles I & II, which have produced eighteen CD's, received the Downbeat Award for Large Jazz Ensembles six times and was twice nominated for a Grammy Award. The Jazz Studies program was cited in the New York Times as "one of the most well-regarded jazz studies programs in the country."

Mr. Baca is also founder and artistic director of Eau Claire Jazz Inc., which organizes one of the largest jazz festivals in the country. In 2013, he received the first, "Career Excellence in Teaching Award" presented by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Mr. Baca has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and the Phillip Brunelle "Plymouth Music Series Orchestra" as well as a past member of the popular radio ensemble for Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion." He has toured with Frank Sinatra, Buddy Rich, Tony Bennett, Mel Torme, Blood Sweat and Tears, and numerous others. He has performed in numerous recording sessions in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

As a soloist, he has performed in China, London, Costa Rica, and Europe as well as the United States. Mr. Baca is a past executive board member for the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) as the United States Representative as well as an advisory board member for the Edwin Franko Goldman Band.



As a teacher, Mr. Baca loves to work with students, of all ages. He has conducted the National High School Honors Jazz Ensemble for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) at their national convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Other teaching highlights include serving as a faculty member of Conn-Selmer Institute with Tim Lautzenheiser and a clinician/guest artist for numerous trumpet/band/orchestra events as well as a conductor for many all-state honors jazz ensembles. Many of Mr. Baca's students are currently making a living performing and teaching.



Dr. Aaron Hedenstrom - Soloist

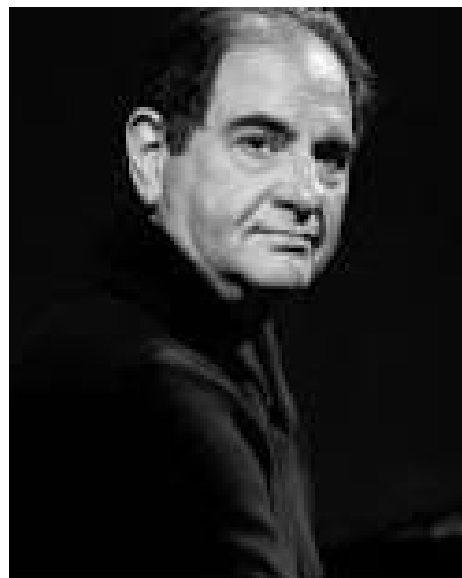
Saxophonist and composer Aaron Hedenstrom has been composing, arranging, and performing music professionally for over a decade. Aaron has performed across the United States as a jazz saxophonist, clinician, composer has received many awards for his compositions and arrangements. Aaron is lecturer of Jazz-Saxophone and the Director of Jazz Combos at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



Adi Yeshaya

Featured Composer

Adi Yeshaya is an Israeli-American composer, arranger and jazz pianist. Graduate of Berklee College of Music, Adi has been active, both as a musician and educator for nearly four decades. His credentials include arranging and orchestration for many artists, including Prince, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Lena Horne, Doc Severinsen, Burt Bacharach, The Minnesota Orchestra, and The Swiss Youth Jazz Orchestra / Jazzaar. In addition, he has been a staff arranger for NBC's The Voice. As an educator, Adi has taught at the University of Minnesota, McNally Smith College of Music (St. Paul, MN) and Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA).



Program Notes for “Tones for a Land in Blue”

A composition about my homeland, Israel.

How does one write about his homeland four decades after leaving it? And In time of turmoil? How do you transform memories, dreams and hopes from a place so dear to your heart into music, when all you see there is a cloud of uncertainty?

When Mr. Baca suggested writing a piece about Israel, I couldn't imagine it.

This piece, which was intended as a tone poem, has evolved into a landscape of sounds and melodies reminiscent of the ones I heard in the first twenty years of my life, and it attempts to tell the story of my country and its culture from a very personal perspective, painted in colors of Jazz.

I would like to dedicate “Tones for a Land in Blue” to the memory of my parents, who were among the founding pioneers of this remarkable country and, on their behalf, would like to send a message of peace to the world.

-Adi Yeshaya

More information about
Adi Yeshaya can be found here!



University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Auditions & Scholarships

All music majors and minors complete one audition for both admission and scholarship before enrolling in music courses. Auditions are held four times each year beginning in November.

2024-25 Remaining Audition Dates

February 10, 2024

March 2, 2024

Jazz Scholarships

Jazz scholarships are available to students based on need and ability. To audition for a jazz scholarship, send a digital recording of yourself performing a standard jazz composition with an electronic rhythm section, live players, or feature/solo with your big band. Scholarships are available for original compositions/arrangements abilities, rhythm section instruments, improvisation, saxophone doubles, and lead trumpet.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Jazz Faculty

Robert Baca - Trumpet, Director of Jazz Studies

Jesse Stacken - Jazz Piano

Dr. Brian Claxton - Drums

Jeremy Boettcher - Bass

Dr. Jeffrey Crowell - Percussion

Dr. Aaron Hedenstrom - Jazz Saxophone, Director of Jazz Combos

Tyler Lustek - Assistant Director of Jazz Combos

Dr. Phillip Ostrander - Trombone





WELCOME
TO THE

EAU CLAIRE
jazz
FESTIVAL

Presented by Eau Claire Jazz, Inc. in partnership
with University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL

APRIL 19TH-20TH

THE EAU CLAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL IS A VIBRANT ANNUAL EVENT THAT BLENDS EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAZZ STUDENTS AND UNPARALLELED ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

STUDENT SESSIONS

Jazz students have been learning and growing at the Eau Claire Jazz Festival for decades. This year is even more dynamic than ever before. We've paired an impressive roster of adjudicators along with some of the most inspiring jazz icons to create an exceptional experience for your schools.

THE JAZZ CRAWL

Jazz Crawl is the transformation of downtown Eau Claire into a New York jazz scene. Here, you can explore over 40 exceptional music groups at 20+ different venues (all-ages and 21+). This year, our groups will be featuring a variety of music styles including ragtime, blues, acoustic, and big band. Join over 5,000 people and enjoy this once a year celebration!

MASTERCLASSES

Once a year, we are humbled by the time and energy our iconic jazz artists offer visiting students through the Eau Claire Jazz Master Classes. Be ready with questions or just be ready to be blown away. Our Master Classes do not disappoint!

CONCERT SERIES

The 2024 Eau Claire Jazz Festival 'Concert Series' is proud to present an incomparable weekend of jazz featuring world-renowned multi-instrumentalists Sean Jones and Lewis Nash.



