

Geoffrey Bradfield
Saxophonist and composer
Professor of Jazz Studies, Northern Illinois University

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

International

Guimaraes Jazz Festival (Portugal), Pescara Jazz Festival (Italy), Vienne Jazz Festival and Jazz a Nice (France), Black Sea Jazz Festival (Ukraine), Bolshoi Hall of the Moscow Conservatory (Russia), Estrada Jazz Festival (Poland), Jazztage Dresden (Germany), Chongqing World Music Festival (China), and Toronto, Medicine Hat, Regina and Calgary jazz festivals (Canada). Various venues in Rwanda, Uganda, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kosovo through the U.S. State Department's American Music Abroad program. Club appearances include Jazzcafe de Muze and The Hopper (Belgium); Yardbird Suite and The Rex (Canada); Jazzinstitut Darmstadt, Quasimodo and A-Trane (Germany); Porgy and Bess and Jazzgalerie Nicklesdorf (Austria); and the Bird's Eye (Switzerland).

United States

New York: Winter Jazz Festival, Merkin Concert Hall, Dizzy's Club Coca Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Smalls, Fat Cat, Shapeshifter Lab, Iridium, Mercury Lounge, The Bitter End.

Chicago: Chicago Jazz Festival, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Ravinia, Symphony Center, Lyric Opera House, The Reva and David Logan Center, Harris Theater, Museum of Contemporary Art, Old Town School of Folk Music, Jazz Showcase, Green Mill, Constellation, Elastic Arts, Hungry Brain.

Other U.S.: The Kennedy Center, NPR Tiny Desk Concert, D.C. Fotoweeek (DC); Earshot Jazz Festival, Ballard Jazz Festival, Tula's Jazz Club (WA); South by Southwest, Monk's Jazz Club, and Discovery Green (TX); Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival and University of Idaho (ID); Portland State University and Portland Jazz Festival (OR); Skidmore College (NY); House of Blues New Orleans, Chicago, and Boston; An die Musik and Bethesda Jazz and Blues (MD); Jazz Estate, North Street /Cabaret, Café Coda, Sugar Maple, Fox River Jazz Festival, University of Madison (WI); Square Room and University of Tennessee, Knoxville (TN); Merriman's Playhouse and Notre Dame University (IN); Brubeck Institute, Temecula Jazz Festival, Charlie O's (CA); University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Cliff Bell's, and Kerrytown Concert House (MI).

Performed and/or recorded with artists such as:

Randy Weston, Ramsey Lewis, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Charles Earland, Orrin Evans, Ryan Cohan, Bruce Barth, Darryl Grant, Willie Pickens, Jodie Christian, Kurt Elling, Louie Bellson, Carl Allen, Dennis Mackrel, Brian Blade, Matt Wilson, Dana Hall, Nasheet Waits, Kendrick Scott, Christian McBride, Rodney Whitaker, Meshell Ndegeocello, Clark Sommers, Matt Ulery, Jeff Parker, Ben Monder, Bobby Broom, Lionel Hampton, Firas Zreik, Joe Locke, Nicholas Payton, Tim Hagans, Terrell Stafford, Arturo Sandoval, Jon Faddis, Etienne Charles, Marquis Hill, Amir El-Saffar, Steve Coleman, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Ben Goldberg, Steve Wilson, Tim Warfield, Walter Smith III, Soul Message Band, Chicago Yestet, tap dancers Savion Glover and Buster Brown, post-rock icons Tortoise and God Speed You Black Emperor, the Ohio Players, eighth blackbird, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra.

Current projects as a leader/co-leader:

Large Ensemble: Four critically acclaimed recordings of extended works, three of which were commissioned by Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works program through the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Geof Bradfield Quintet: Artist in residence at the 2019 Guimaraes Jazz Festival in Portugal. Recordings include *Our Roots* and *Birdhoused*, both named Best CDs of their respective years by Downbeat Magazine, and *Quaver*, recorded live at the Green Mill.

General Semantics: Collaboration with clarinetist Ben Goldberg and drummer Dana Hall, featured on NPR's Fresh Air and named Best CDs of 2020 by Downbeat.

DISCOGRAPHY

Leader or co-leader:

Colossal Abundance (Calligram 2024)

Our Heroes (AFAR, 2023)

Quaver (Calligram 2023)

Saxophone Quartet (International Phonograph, 2023)

Tenor Time (AFAR, 2022)

General Semantics (Delmark 2020)

Yes, and ...Music for Nine Improvisers (Delmark 2018)

Birdhoused (Cellar Live 2017)

Our Roots (Origin 2015)

African Flowers (Origin 2010)

Urban Nomad (Origin 2008)

Rule of Three (Liberated Zone, 2001)

Selected recordings as a sideman:

Chris Varga, *Breathe* (Calligram 2025)

Eric Jacobson, *Going Home* (Origin 2024)

Ben Waltzer, *The Point* (Calligram 2024)

Kenny Reichert, *Switch* (Calligram 2024)

Clark Sommers, *Feast Ephemera* (Irabajon 2023)

Ethan Phillion, *Meditations on Mingus* (Sunnyside, 2022)

Michael Allemana, *Vonology* (Ears and Eyes, 2022)

Eric Jacobson, *Discover* (Origin, 2022)

Darren Johnston, *Life in Time* (Origin, 2021)

Ryan Cohan, *Originations* (Origin, 2020)

Clark Sommers' Ba(SH) *Penninsula* (Outside In 2020)

Chicago Yestet, *We're Not There Yet* (Tiddlywinks 2020)

Soul Message Band, *Soulful Days* (Delmark 2019)

Stu Mindeman Woven Threads (Sunnyside 2018)

Jeff Baker, *Phrases* (OA2 2018)
Clark Sommers' Lens (*Ears and Eyes* 2017)
Jackie Allen, *New Fingered Dawn* (Avant Bass 2017)
Matt Ulery's Loom, *Festival* (Woolgathering 2016)
Spin Quartet, *Starting from Zero* (2015)
Chicago Yestet, *Just Say Yes* (Tiddlywinks 2014)
Peter Lerner, *Continuation* (Origin 2014)
Spin Quartet, *In Circles* (Origin 2014)
Matt Ulery's Loom, *Wake an Echo* (Greenleaf 2013)
Clark Sommers, *Ba(SH)* (Origin 2013)
Ryan Cohan, *The River* (Motema 2013)
Tito Carrillo, *Opening Statement* (Origin 2012)
John Moulder, *11th Hour* (Origin, 2011)
Marlene Rosenberg, *Bassprint* (Origin 2012)
Ramsey Lewis, *Proclamation of Hope* (2011 DVD, live at the Kennedy Center)
Ryan Cohan, *Another Look* (Motema 2010)
Ted Sirota's Rebel Souls, *Seize the Time* (Naim 2009)
Various Artists, *The Rough Guide to Afrobeat Revolution* (Music Rough Guides 2009)
Chad McCullough, *Dark Wood, Dark Water* (Origin 2008)
Ryan Cohan, *One Sky* (Motema, 2007)
Mike Allemana, *Inner Rhythm* (2006)
Kobie Watkins, *Involved* (Origin 2006)
John Moulder, *Trinity* (Origin 2005)
Ted Sirota's Rebel Souls, *Breeding Resistance* (Delmark, 2004)
Godspeed You Black Emperor, *Yanqui U.X.O.* (Constellation 2002)
Ryan Cohan, *Here and Now* (Sirocco 2001)
Ted Sirota's Rebel Souls, v. the Forces of Evil (Naim, 2000)
Mighty Blue Kings, *Live From Chicago* (R-Jay, 1998)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Chamber Music America/Doris Duke New Jazz Works (2008, 2011, 2016)
City of Chicago DCASE Esteemed Artist (2022)
Illinois Artist Council Fellowship (2021)
Black Metropolis/Mellon Foundation Fellowship (2010)
Illinois Arts Council Individual Artist Grant (2010, 2012, 2017, 2024)
City of Chicago Individual Artist Grant (2014, 2017, 2018, 2019)
Downbeat Magazine Rising Star Tenor Saxophonist (2016, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024)
Downbeat Magazine Rising Star Arranger (2015, 2016)

EDUCATION

California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA
M.F.A., 1994, Jazz Studies

DePaul University, Chicago, IL
B.M.A., magna cum laude, 1992, Jazz Studies