

## UF JAZZ FACULTY BIOS

**SCOTT WILSON** is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Florida. Wilson has served as Musical Director for Universal Studios Japan, staff composer for Grand Link World in Qingdao, China and has been a featured jazz trumpet soloist for Tokyo Disney Sea. In addition to his dynamic live and recorded performances on trumpet, he is regarded as one of the world's foremost proponents of the Electronic Valve Instrument (EVI). Wilson's jazz textbooks, the Ultimate Jazz Tool Kit and Ultimate Music Workbook, are available through Kendall Hunt Publishing and accompanied by 35 jazz instructional videos that cover topics ranging from jazz theory to songwriting. Wilson has diverse international performance credits having shared the stage with jazz luminaries including Benny Green, Wayne Bergeron, Gordon Goodwin, Conrad Herwig, Wycliffe Gordon, Stevie Wonder, Jeff Coffin, Shelly Berg, Denis DeBlasio, Peter Erskine, Eric Marienthal, Bobby Shew, Slide Hampton, Terrell Stafford, Ron Blake, John Pizzarelli, Ed Shaughnessy, Alex Acuna, and others.

**DR. ALEX PERSHOUNIN** has joined the music faculty at the University of Florida School of Music in the Fall 2024, teaching classical, jazz, and commercial double bass and bass guitar studio. He has performed extensively nationally and internationally. Equally versatile in classical, jazz, commercial, and world music settings, he has been featured as a performer, arranger, and composer on such internationally recognized music events as Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Pori Jazz Festival in Finland, Europe's Jazz Contest in Belgium, and New Orleans Jazz Fest, among many others. His performing credits include collaboration projects and appearances with the world-class artists ranging from Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Golson, Bob Berg and Ray Charles to Itzhac Perlman and Yo Yo Ma.

**CLYDE CONNOR** currently serves as an adjunct professor in the UF Jazz Studies department. During his time at the University of North Texas, he successfully auditioned for the U.S. Navy Band Commodores Jazz Ensemble in Washington, D.C. In the Navy, Connor showcased his talents as a performer, composer, and arranger, with many of his compositions regularly featured in concerts and recordings. Connor's recordings as a session player at Omega Recording Studios in Rockville, Maryland, are numerous, with much of his work in collaboration with major music publishing companies such as Barnhouse, Columbia, CP Beldwin, and Warner Brothers. His compositions and arrangements are now performed by university and professional groups around the world. Clyde has performed with artists including Jeff Andrews, Louie Bellson (drum duet), Randy Brecker, Dave Brubeck, Pete Christlieb, Eddie Daniels, Curtis Fuller, Jon Faddis, Terry Gibbs, Don Grolnick, Milt Hinton, Steve Kahn, Dave Liebman, Brandon Marsalis, Don Menza, Claudio Roditi, Arturo Sandoval, Diane Schurr, Doc Severinsen,

Bobby Shew, Lou Soloff, Marvin Stamm, Clark Terry, Stanley Turrentine, Chris Vadala, Ernie Watts, Joe Williams and Snooky Young.

**EDWARD WHITE** has been the top featured guitarist for the University of Florida Jazz Studies Program and is currently pursuing a PhD. in Music Education. Edward maintains an active performance schedule in jazz and contemporary music and runs a private studio from which he teaches private guitar lessons, records, and produces music. In 2015, Mr. White received his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies at Florida State University. Shortly after, in 2018, he received his Master's from the University of Florida in Music Education. His mission is to realize his own musicianship and potential by helping to refine others through education, performance, creation, and meaningful collaboration. Currently, Edward is a music instructor for Santa Fe College.

**NOAH BERDUGO** is the top jazz tenor saxophonist for the UF Jazz Band and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Florida. In the UF Jazz Studies program, Noah is a Jazz Graduate Teaching Assistant who has taught classes in Jazz Theory, Jazz Aural Skills, and Jazz Improvisation, as well as being one of the directors of UF's Jazz Band 2. With years of experience in private instruction, ensemble direction, and jazz education, he has cultivated a dynamic career centered around inspiring musicians of all ages and skill levels. Noah has also served as the Jazz Band Director at Boca High School, directing the band in festivals and competitions and leading the ensemble to its first superior rating at MPA in eight years. After completing his Undergraduate degree in Saxophone performance in 2023, Noah Berdugo was a Jazz Graduate Teaching Assistant at Florida Atlantic University while completing a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management.

**ANNIE MATOT** is an award-winning vocalist and has been a featured jazz vocalist for the University of Florida Jazz Band, UF Jazz Combos, Swazz Ensemble, and many others. During her early career, Annie attended The King's Academy and joined The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts program to begin pursuing her dreams. At TKA, she has performed in all the TKA Theatre Company's main stage productions including Newsies, Titanic, Miss Saigon, Cinderella, Aida, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Light in the Piazza, and most recently in leading roles as Meg March in Little Women, Cosette in Les Misérables and Miss Andrews in Mary Poppins. She was featured as the starring vocalist in The King's Regiment homecoming halftime show, performing Queen's Don't Stop Me Now. As an entrepreneur, Annie created her on performance group named The Annie Matot Jazz Quintet. This group has performed the classics across the state of Florida at high-end restaurants, private clubs, charitable events, outdoor concerts, and weddings. They have quickly developed a following in the South Florida community

as well as on Facebook and Instagram. In February of 2022, the Annie Matot Jazz Quintet held its own cabaret show at The King's Academy called Let's Fall in Love to celebrate Valentine's Day! The show sold out on both nights and offered a new, unique atmosphere to The King's Academy stage.