

Laura Caviani Curriculum Vitae
Carleton College Music Department
lcaviani@carleton.edu 612-817-3898

TEACHING/ADJUDICATING EXPERIENCE

2014–present: Carleton College, Northfield, MN – Jazz Area Director

Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Chamber Groups, and Jazz Workshop

Weekly rehearsals and studio classes culminate in performances at the end of each term.

With Justin London's guidance, Jazz Workshop is now three classes: Fall = Jazz Lab Band (Caviani), Winter = Jazz Arranging (Caviani), and Spring = Advanced Improvisation (Harris). The goal is to serve the first year students better, and to prepare them for the more advanced groups.

2003–present: Carleton College – Applied Jazz Instructor (averaging 10-12 per term)

2026: Guest Artist for Jazz Fests in Fort Dodge, IA; Clear Lake, IA; and Mitchell, SD

2025: Guest Artist for Jazz Fest in Ames, IA

2021: To protect the health and safety of the students, Music Department Ensemble Directors collaborated with Engineer Matthew Zimmerman to transform Carleton's performance/rehearsal spaces into a multi-room recording studio, where the students improved their audio/video recording skills.

2020: Guest Artist at UW–Stevens Point, U–Northern Iowa, and in Waterloo, IA

2019: Guest Artist/Coach for: Albany HS, MN; Coe College, IA; U of MN; Farmington HS, MN; Apple Valley HS, MN

2018: Guest Artist/Coach for U of WI/Madison Summer Music Clinic

2018: Guest Artist with the Spring Lake Park High School Jazz Ensemble in MN

2017–18: Director of Wisconsin Honors Jazz Ensemble

2013–2015: Faculty Member at Interlochen Jazz Camp, MI (high school)

2009, 2014: Director of South Dakota All State Jazz Combos and Ensembles

2005–2007: Faculty Member at Shell Lake Jazz Camp, WI (high school)

2004–2014: **St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN – Applied Jazz Lessons**

1995–present: Jazz Festival Adjudicator (NV, WI, IA, SD, MN, Japan, Argentina, & Scotland)

RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES

2026: Jazz Area chamber groups provide music for Mayor Pete Buttigieg's visit, and Honors Convocation.

2025: "Twelfth Night" Commission premiered, featuring theatre and jazz students

RECENT CAREER HIGHLIGHTS (2022– present)

2024: Released "**Tableaux**" with Saxophonist David Milne, featuring jazz arrangements of Satie, Debussy, Schubert, and other late 19th century composers.

2024: Performed an hour-long solo lecture recital featuring 2 world premieres: **The Birthday Etudes**, and **Physics Lessons**

2023: Performed in Carleton's production of "**As You Like It**", by William Shakespeare, under the direction of Andrew Carlson, and featuring new works by me.

2022: Premiered my original "**The Agitators**", a 35-minute musical work set to the words of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Paul Wellstone, Emma Lazarus, and Susan B. Anthony, featuring 100+ Carleton music students under the direction of Matthew Olson, Carleton's choir director

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HIGHLIGHTED PERFORMANCES (2019 – 2026)

- 2026:** Performed recital with faculty member Natalia Moiseeva, violin at UW-River Falls
- 2025:** Performed/coached at UW-LaCrosse, UW-River Falls, w/ Patty Peterson at Crooners
- 2024:** Performed ***“The Gates of Justice”***, by Dave Brubeck, along with a new movement of my work *“The Agitators”* at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, with Chorus Polaris, Reed Mathis and Dave Schmalenberger, under the direction of William Mathis
- 2024:** Performed with guitarist Sam Miltich in Grand Rapids, MN
- 2022/23:** Performed with the LaCrosse Jazz Orchestra for their annual holiday show
- 2023:** Performed *Tableaux* with David Milne at the Schubert Club and Concordia College in St. Paul, at UW–River Falls
- 2023:** Performed at Crooners 3 times: with my trio, David Milne, & Claudia Schmidt
- 2023:** Performed at the Minnesota History Museum in St. Paul to celebrate a new exhibit honoring the life of Charles M. Schulz
- 2020:** January–March included: Grand Rapids, MN with Sam Miltich, a show on Thelonious Monk at “Jazz at Studio Z” in St. Paul, and “Jazz at St. Barney’s” in Plymouth, feat. drum legend Todd Strait.
- 2019:** Adjudicated/performed for the Iowa Jazz Championships in Ames, with an all–female jazz ensemble comprised of renowned women jazz artists
- 2019:** Adjudicated/performed with New York City – based Ingrid Jensen, Trumpet, At UW–River Falls Jazz Fest
- 2019:** Trio opened for Davina and the Vagabonds at the Armory in Northfield, MN

RECENT CARLETON PERFORMANCE COLLABORATIONS (2017 – 2026)

- 2025:** Brought in Guest Artist Kristin Korb (bassist/vocalist) to perform at Carleton and provide workshops for the Jazz Area students.
- 2024:** Performed recital with Nikki Melville, Matthew McCright and Loren Fishman
- 2023:** Performed with jazz faculty at fall faculty gala
- 2020:** Performed faculty recital with Martha Jamsa, Chris Bates and Dave Schmalenberger
- 2018:** Featured Zacc Harris, Greg Keel and guest artist JC Sanford at spring Jazz Fest
- 2017:** Performed with Matthew McCright my arrangement of *Blackbird* at Carleton Gala

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2026:** Co-hosted Swing Dance featuring Carleton’s and Northfield High School’s Jazz Ensembles, at Northfield’s Armory
- 2025:** Duo gig with David Milne at Imminent Brewery in Northfield
- 2023:** Adjudicated for the MN State Fair Talent Contest
- 2022, 2023:** Co-hosted Swing Dance featuring Carleton’s and Northfield High School’s Jazz Ensembles, at the Northfield Ballroom
- 2022:** Served on a panel at Williams College to advocate for their Music Department’s building renovation
- 2021:** To build community during COVID, co-hosted “Driveway Concerts” with JC Sanford (Jazz Director, St. Olaf College) featuring Twin–Cities based musicians.
- 2018:** Hosted House Concert Series (featuring guest artists in my new Northfield home)
- 2016–2021:** Led Song Circle Workshops (IA, WI, and MN)

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

2018–present: Plymouth Congregational Church Early Service Music Director

2013–2018: Plymouth Congregational Church Early Service Sub

2000–2013: Accompanist at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church

EDUCATION

2023: Took Bobby McFerrin's week-long Song Circle class in San Francisco, CA

2017: Received grant from the Jerome Foundation to study choral composition with Carol Barnett through VocalEssence's ReMix program (17)

2016: Received funding from Carleton to study "Circle Songs," founded by Bobby McFerrin, at the Omega Institute in New York

2009: Received grant from the American Composers Forum to study with Libby Larsen

1995: **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**

Master of Music in Improvisation, Graduate Teaching Assistant

1984: **Lawrence University, Appleton, WI**

Bachelor of Music in Theory/Composition, magna cum laude

1983, 1992: **Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY Summer School**

HIGHLIGHTED COMMISSIONS (2009 to present)

2026: Natalia Moiseeva commissioned me to compose a new work for her and my trio, which is slated to premiere in the winter of 2027.

2025: Andrew Carlson (Carleton Theatre Director) commissioned me to compose new music for their production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. This was the focus of my second sabbatical in the spring of 2024.

2024: *Chorus Polaris* commissioned me to compose a new movement for "The Agitators" featuring the words of Susan B. Anthony.

2023: Andrew Carlson (Carleton Theatre Director) commissioned me to compose new music for their production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

2022: Matthew Olson (Carleton Choir Director) commissioned a new choral work featuring Carleton's Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Scattitude, and guest vocalists Judi Vinar and George Phillip Shoultz totaling over 100 musicians.

2021: Four Voices String Quartet premiered ***Cordoba*** at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, and the Phipps Concert Hall in Hudson, WI

2020: VocalEssence commissioned and recorded "***Rise Up and Lay Down Your Arms***" (George Philip Shoultz, conductor) for live-streaming event

2018: Swing Sisterhood Big Band and choir commissioned me to arrange ***Mary Lou Williams: Music for Peace, Re-Imagined*** (Sarah Schmalenberger, Conductor) at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN

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- 2018:** VocalEssence commissioned and recorded ***Dream Cycle—a setting of three poems by Langston Hughes*** (Vocal Essence, dir. by George Phillip Shoultz, Minneapolis Orchestra Hall)
- 2017:** VocalEssence commissioned and recorded ***Manuscript*** and ***Sleep Little Baby Sleep*** (Philip Brunelle, conductor) at the ACDA Convention in Minneapolis)
- 2016:** Performed two originals with the St. Cloud Orchestra: ***Orion*** and ***Toccata for Orchestra*** dir. by Jonathan Brandani)
- 2015:** Great River Chorale commissioned ***“Trip Away”*** and ***“Mortal Fools”*** (Mary Kay Geston, conductor)
- 2009:** ***“Jazz Piano Etudes”*** (Matthew McCright; recorded on ***Second Childhood***)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2021:** One of six artists selected to attend the Millay Colony For the Arts in New York
- 2015:** Won VocalEssence’s “Welcome Christmas” Carol Composition contest
- 2010:** Runner up in the International Jazz Piano Competition in Jacksonville, FL
- 2006:** Received funding from American Composers’ Forum to tour with trio (featuring Bob Bowman and Todd Strait)
- 1997:** Received Nathan Pusey Award (Lawrence University)

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- As leader: *Tableaux* (2024)
Mysterious Thelonious (2017)
Confluence (2017)
Going There (2005)
Angels We Haven’t Heard (1999)
As One (1998)
Dreamlife (1996)
- As sideperson: *SambaNova 2* Joan Griffith (2023)
Winter Springs, Summer Falls, Ann Reed (2017)
A Girl Named Vincent, Prudence Johnson (2011)
GJ4, Gordon Johnson (2008)
SambaNova, Joan Griffith (2008)
Daydream, Collage, Azure-Té, Karrin Allyson (1997, 1996, 1995)

CRITICS’ COMMENTS

“...a masterful blend of... chordal complexity, innate sense of swing, and desire to live up to Monk’s intrepid spirit” *Mysterious Thelonious* (2017) – Britt Robson, *Minneapolis StarTribune*

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“...a pianist of exceptional range ”

SambaNova (2008) – Andrea Canter, liner notes

“piano trio jazz of the highest order”

Going There (2005) – Bob Protzman, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“stunningly fresh”

As One (1998) – Nancy Ann Lee, *Jazz Times*

“...in a word, outstanding”

Dreamlife (96) – Tom Surowicz, *Minneapolis StarTribune*

“...Sparkling and inventive”

Dreamlife (1996) – Marian McPartland