

Daniel Blake, Ph.D.
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Education

The Graduate Center, City University of New York 2013
Ph.D., composition

Conservatory at Brooklyn College of Music 2008
Masters in Music (Composition), *Morton Feldman Composition Prize*

New England Conservatory of Music 2004
Bachelor of Music (Jazz Saxophone), *Pi kappa lambda, distinction in performance*

Tufts University 2004
Bachelor of Arts (Child Development), *cum laude*

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) 2025-present
Art and Music Dept., Music Technology, Language of Music

Part-Time Assistant Professor, New School for Social Research 2016-2025
Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts
Designed special topic seminars Music and Collective Action, Underground Music Scenes, Music for Political Action (in partnership with Platform Cooperative Consortium), 21st Century Platform Coops (funding from Civic Liberal Arts Curriculum)
College of Performing Arts
Ear training levels 1-4, Music Theory level 1, Private Composition/Improvisation
Departmental service on ear training curriculum design (2018)

Teaching Artist, Rehabilitation Through the Arts 2023 - 2024
Designed music performance ensemble at Taconic Correctional Facility

Lecturer, Bard Prison Initiative (Fall 2021) 2021
Designed the course Music, Story, History for Taconic Correctional Facility

Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College (CUNY) 2008-2021
Global Jazz Studies, taught Music of the United States, Small and Large Jazz Ensembles, Composition Seminar, Graduate student advisement, private composition/improvisation, Core Music
Extensive departmental service for Global Jazz Studies program administration (student auditions, degree recital, schedule planning, etc) 2018-2021

New York City College of Technology (CUNY) 2014-2017
20th Century Music, Jazz History, Intro to Musical Styles (European music history)

Hofstra University 2014
Jazz History and Theory

Grants, Honors and Commissions

Composers Concordance Premier New York-based new music organization commission for guitar and saxophone composition, premiered at Jim Kempner Fine Arts June 21, 2025	2025
Lang Faculty Funding Received funding to commission and video of new choreography for original ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i> , part of professional release on Adhyaropa Records (filmed May 7, 2025; published August 19, 2025) Produced and edited video	2025
Downbeat Magazine, “Rising Star” Flagship Jazz periodical holds annual poll on international performers across instrumental categories	2022-2025
Composers Now Organization founded by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tania Leon. Featured composer for virtual “Impact Series” (May 2023); featured composition on 2024 “Dialogues” series (LaGuardia Community College); Featured composition on 2025 Season Opener at leading Brooklyn venue National Sawdust	2023-25
JKW Foundation Managed budget for interdisciplinary workshop program associated with Poor People’s Campaign public arts and culture education program	2023
Humanities New York Quick grant (2022) and \$10k Action Grant (2023) to develop inter-disciplinary curriculum for high school students and teachers on arts and criminal justice, based on ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i>	2022-23
New York Foundation For The Arts Received fellowship in music, unrestricted grant to further artistic achievement	2022
Arts Westchester Received Arts Alive and Community Arts grant to create and stage original ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i> Produced and edited video feature of 40-minute ballet work	2021
Civic Liberal Arts Funding Received funding to create interdisciplinary course with co-founder of New York-based platform cooperative Ampled. Taught for two semesters at Lang College (The New School)	2021-22
Tricentric Foundation Commission Commissioned by organization of NEA Jazz Master Anthony Braxton to compose an original chamber orchestra for improvisers. Premiered November 2015, recording released in 2016	2015

NY City College of Technology Open Lab Fellowship Received distinction for innovative pedagogy for community-based learning assignment (Jazz History)	2015
North-South Consonance Ensemble Composition Award Featured performance of the work “Resonances” for chamber ensemble	2014
New Music USA Composer Assistance Program Support funding to facilitate premier of new work <i>The Dust Moves</i>	2013
Jerome Foundation Commission Funding to create new work <i>The Dust Moves</i> , released in 2016 on Infrequent Seams Produced and edited feature DVD release	2013
Bird On A Wire Commission to compose work for recorder and 6-point surround sound electronics, Montreal premier and recording by Terri Hron	2011
City University, Baisley Powell Elebash Foundation Received annual award for compositional excellence	2010
Atlantic Center for the Arts residency Residency at New Smyrna Beach, FL center with MacArthur Genius awardee George Lewis, produced site-specific sound installation	2008
Morton Feldman Composition Prize	2008

Selected Masterclasses, Workshops, Conferences

Institute for Artistic Research in Jazz Presentation on “The Embodied Practice of Improvisation”	Feb. 26-27, 2026
Jazz Educators Network Confirmed presentation on Composing with Polyrhythm at annual JEN conference in New Orleans, LA	January 9, 2026
American Musicological Association, Greater NY Chapter Presented paper “The Political Music of Steve Lacy” at the Graduate Center, CUNY	Sept. 13, 2025
Songs In the Key of Resistance Retreat Co-produced and co-led annual retreat for culture workers at Bethany Arts Community (Ossining, NY); recording sessions and arrangements of social movement songs	Sept. 5-7, 2025
Composers Now “Dialogues” Interview Conducted interview with Composers Concordance	Feb. 27, 2025

Art In Action Series Premiered and presented on original ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i> and new video “Red Tara” at Art In Action conference at Grace Episcopal Church (Ossining, NY)	June 27, 2025
LaGuardia Community College Panelist and featured performer on Composers Now “Dialogues” moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and founder Tania León	Sept. 19, 2024
People’s Forum Organized presentation “Beyond Survival” with the People’s Music Network and New York State Poor People’s Campaign Arts and Culture committee	January 27, 2024
Composers Now Impact Series Impact Series composer portrait, produced and edited video feature/retrospective	May 18, 2023
New York University “Songs In the Key of Restance” Co-produced and performed in public workshop at NYU Tisch School; helped edit video document	April 22, 2023
Katonah Space Organized, performed and composed sold-out weekend of performances of original ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i> , followed by community conversations with criminal justice and prison education organizations Rehabilitation Through the Arts and Release Aging People from Prison	Feb. 1-3, 2023
Anne Arundel Community College Workshop and performance on “Composing and Improvising with Polyrythm”	Oct. 22, 2022
Princeton University Workshop/performance on the music of Hermeto Pascoal for So Percussion summer intensive	July 12, 2022
Imagine Jazz Summer Institute Workshop on rhythm and improvisation in Spokane WA with Rogerio Boccato Quarteto	June 3, 2022
Graduate Center, CUNY Workshop/performance at City University of New York, Graduate Center	Nov. 2, 2021
American Musicological Society, Annual Meeting Paper and panelist on “Musical Autonomy and Forms of Resistance” at AMS annual meeting in Boston, MA	Nov. 1, 2019
William Patterson College Read paper/presentation on “Composing Sacred Music in the 21 st Century” at Shastra Symposium, based on original composition “Upasiva’s Questions”	Sept. 28, 2018
University of Toronto Composing for Improvisers Workshop/performance on “Composing for Improvisers”	Jan. 27, 2017

Society for Music Theory, Annual Meeting

Nov. 5, 2016

Read paper/presentation on “Composing in New York’s Improvised Music Scene” at the annual SMT meeting in Vancouver, Canada

Notable Recordings and Touring**Got My Wings (Adhyaropa Records)**

2025

Ballet score released on international label/distributor for contemporary music, featured on ASCAP’s national playlist “new music Friday”; featured in Chamber Music USA Fall issue

Da Fé (Sunnyside Records)

2021-present

Critically-acclaimed album of original compositions for jazz quintet on major international jazz label. Featured interviews in Downbeat Magazine, Tricycle Magazine

The Digging (Sunnyside Records)

2016-present

Critically-acclaimed album of original compositions for jazz trio. Featuring renowned Jazz drummer Eric Harland, reviews in Ottawa Citizen, performances throughout Canada and the US

Alune Wade

2017-2023

Arranger and featured soloist for “African Fast Food” and “Sultan”, performances at Safaricom Jazz Festival (Kenya), Joe’s Pub

Mivos Quartet

2013-2017

Leading string quartet commissioned multi-media work, funding from Jerome Foundation, New Music USA, Bronx Community College; designed interactive animations and composed and performed in evening-length concert work

Esperanza Spalding/Radio Music Society

2012-2016

Soloist on Grammy-winning album with multiple Grammy-winner Esperanza Spalding. Appearances with large ensemble and quartet at all major jazz festivals: North Sea Jazz Festival, Jazz à Marciac, Newport Jazz Festival, Tokyo Jazz Festival, John Coltrane Jazz Festival, David Letterman, Jay Leno, John Coltrane Jazz Festival

Julian Lage Group

Saxophonist, composer/arranger with Grammy-nominated guitarist, recorded on *Gladwell* (Emarcy Records) with appearances at Montreux Jazz Festival, Tanglewood Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival

Selected Performances**Ornithology Jazz Club**

December 12, 2025

Dan Blake and The Digging feature performance

Smalls Jazz Club

September 24, 2025

Album release concert for *Got My Wings* at renowned New York jazz club

Giorno Poetry Systems Composed and performed in Colombian music-themed event at former home of William S. Burroughs	June 6, 2025
Soon Is Now, River Center Featured performer in <i>Tinkuy</i> , multidisciplinary art installation and performance piece by celebrated artist Koyoltzintli at the River Center (Beacon, NY)	May 31-June 1, 2025
Continuum Culture and Arts Featured soloist for foundation supported concert series, album release concert at for “Beaches of Riches” (New Focus Recordings)	May 10, 2025
Union Theological Seminary Performed in Songs In the Key of Resistance performance Kairos Center for Religions and Social Justice	April 8, 2025
Baby Grand Series Featured soloist with renowned vocalist/composer Leala Cyr, performance sponsored by Hartford Jazz Society, Kaman Foundation, and Hartford Public Library	March 2, 2025
The Stone Performed at venue founded by MacArthur Genius awardee John Zorn	Feb 1, 2025
National Sawdust Featured performer/composer for for Composers Now season opener at celebrated Brooklyn venue with venue founder Paola Prestini and Composers Now founder, Pulitzer-Prize winning composer Tania Leon	Jan. 29, 2025
Winter Jazz Fest Flagship annual jazz festival with international recording artist, singer/composer Malika Zarra	January 11, 2024
Jazz Habitat Performed and arranged music of jazz legend Steve Lacy for funded performance series in New York City	Oct 27, 2023
Blue Llama Featured soloist with Senegalese bassist/composer Alune Wade in Ann Arbor, MI	Jan. 25, 2023
International Jazz Day Music of Hermeto Pascoal, Bethany Arts Community	April 30, 2022
Pioneer Works Performed saxophone quartet cycle for 85 th birthday retrospective for minimalist pioneer Terry Riley	Dec. 20, 2019
Brooklyn Academy of Music Performed in ensemble for 75 th Birthday Retrospective concert for Velvet Underground founding member John Cale	Nov. 18, 2018

Safaricom Jazz Festival Performances and workshops in Nairobi, Kenya metro area with Alune Wade	Nov. 8, 2017
Bronx Community College Rotunda Series (March 16, 2017) Dan Blake w/ Mivos Quartet, performance and lecture	
Dominican Republic Jazz Festival Performance with Esperanza Spalding Quintet, including Grammy-winner Geoffrey Keezer	Nov. 10, 2017
John Coltrane Jazz Festival Performance with Grammy-winning artist Esperanza Spalding Quartet in High Point, NC	Sept. 16, 2016
Winter Jazz Fest Release concert for DVD album of multi-media string quartet work <i>The Dust Moves</i> featuring Dan Blake Mivos Quartet	Jan. 18, 2016
Tbilisi Jazz Festival Featured soloist with George Mel Quartet	Oct. 25, 2014
Roulette Premier of <i>The Dust Moves</i> , multi-media video and performance work	Nov. 13, 2013
Esperanza Spalding Radio Music Society North Sea Jazz Festival	August 30, 2013
Esperanza Spalding Radio Music Society Jazz à Marciac	July 28, 2012
Tanglewood Jazz Festival Julian Lage Group	Sept. 5, 2010
Newport Jazz Festival Julian Lage Group	Aug. 6, 2010
Umbria Jazz Festival Julian Lage Group	July 15, 2010

Discography

Dan Blake, "Got My Wings"	Adhyaropa Records,	2025
Alejandro Florez, "Beaches of Riches"	New Focus Records	2025
Kevin Miller/Dan Blake "At First Light"	Creative Sources	2024
Malika Zarra, "RWA – The Essence"	D. Zel Productions	2023
Dan Blake, "Da Fé"	Sunnyside Records,	2021
Dan Blake/Robert Dick, "Laugh and Lie Down"	Chant Records,	2021
Blake/Laubrock/Irabagon, "The Cat of Sadness"	Carrier Records	2020
Dan Blake, "The Digging"	Sunnyside Records	2016
Dan Blake, "The Dust Moves" (DVD)	Infrequent Seams	2016

Esperanza Spalding, "Radio Music Society"	Columbia (Grammy winner)	2012
Julian Lage, "Gladwell"	Emarcy/Universal Records	2012
Dan Blake, "The Aquarian Suite"	Brooklyn Jazz Underground	2012
Sofia Rei, "Sube Azul"	World Village	2009
Anthony Braxton, "Trillium E"	New Braxton House	2009
Danilo Pérez, "Panama Suite"	ArtistShare	2008
Dan Blake: "The Party Suite"	Self-release	2006

Arts Management Experience

Got My Wings (2021-2023)

Composed original social justice-themed ballet; grant-writing (successful applications with Humanities NY, Arts Westchester); coordinated educational workshop, and school liaison for grade 9-12 push-in program

Buddhist Global Relief (2010-present)

Fundraising concert coordinator, volunteer team director; artist and venue liaison with partners including Interchurch Center, Middle Collegiate Church, St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery; developed partnerships with arts organizations including JazzMobile, New Heritage Theater, World Conference of Mayors

Board of Directors

Executive Committee (Secretary), review presentations of project applications; perform project site visits

Podcast producer/interviewer

Producer and host of "Helping Hands Podcast"

New York State Poor People's Campaign (2021-2023)

Co-coordinator, Arts and Culture Committee. Produced events/workshops; manage budgets and funding, develop institutional partnerships with Tisch School, Bethany Arts Community, The New School, and East Side Institute, People's Forum

Mount Kisco Arts Council (2017-2021)

Co-founder and artistic director of summer outdoor concert series; manage budget and artist contracts on behalf of Village of Mount Kisco

Firehouse Collective (2013-2018)

Founder/artistic director of monthly Brooklyn concert series; Board of Directors of non-profit

The Defacto Series (2008-2010)

Co-founder of Brooklyn-based concert series, co-curated with the venue Bushwick Starr

The Boston Jazz Collective (2004-2006)

Co-founder, treasurer of arts networking platform; curated fundraising events

Publications

"Gotami's Gone: A Song for the Buddha's Childhood Caregiver", *Helping Hands Newsletter*, winter 2022

"Dan Blake's *Da Fé* Born From A Life of Compassionate Action," *Downbeat Magazine*, July 2021

"Teaching Activism Through Jazz", *Jazz Education Magazine*, March 2021

"Poverty Starts In the Stomach", *Helping Hands Newsletter*, Winter 2018

“Space Is The Place”, *Music Scholarship*, No. 3 (Fall 2017), pp. 77-83

American Music Review, Spring 2016

“Music and Compassion”, *Helping Hands Newsletter*, vol. 8/2 (Summer 2016)

“Performed Identities: Theorizing in New York’s Improvised Music Scene,” Ph.D. diss., The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2013

Grove Dictionary of American Music (2nd ed.), entries on *Bruce Saylor*, *Jeff Chan*, *Lonnie Smith*.
New York: Oxford University Press, 2011

Technology/Language:

Technology: Microsoft Suite, Adobe Premiere, Google Suite, Reaper, Finale, Ableton Live, Logic Pro

Languages: English (native speaker), French (fluent), Spanish (proficient),
German (proficient)

--References Available Upon Request--