

Daniel Blake, Ph.D.
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Education

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

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

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

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

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) 2025-present
Art and Music Dept.
Music Technology (MUS236), Composition Through Technology (MUS336)
Language of Music (MUS102, online and in person)

College Service:

Faculty Technology Committee
Founder/director of department Jazz Ensemble
Created workshop for Prison to College Pipeline at Otisville Correctional Facility

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
Core Music, Music of the United States, Small and Large Jazz Ensembles,
Composition Seminar, Graduate student advisement, private
composition/improvisation

College Service:

Global Jazz Studies program administration (student auditions, degree recital, advising) 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

Conferences and Presentations

Institute for Artistic Research in Jazz, Conference Presentation (Brussels) Feb. 26-27, 2026
“Embodied Practicing in Musical Improvisation” (Paper)

John Jay Prison-To-College Pipeline, Workshop (Otisville, NY) January 13, 2026
“Songwriting As Storytelling” (workshop)

Jazz Educators Network, Conference Presentation (New Orleans) January 9, 2026
“Polyrhythm in Jazz Improvisation and Composition” (Paper)

Mount Kisco Arts Council, Lecture and Performance (Mount Kisco, NY) December 7, 2025
“Got My Wings” (Lecture/Performance)

**American Musicological Association, Greater NY Chapter
Conference Presentation (New York)** Sept. 13, 2025
“The Political Music of Steve Lacy” (Paper)

Bethany Arts Community, Arts Retreat Sept. 5-7, 2025
“Songs In the Key of Resistance” (co-coordinator)
Kairos Center for Religions and Social Justice; produced recording sessions and arrangements of social movement songs

Bethany Arts Community, Art In Action June 27, 2025
“Red Tara” (video installation/premier), Grace Episcopal Church (Ossining, NY)

Composers Now “Dialogues” Interview Feb. 27, 2025
Conducted interview with Composers Concordance

People’s Forum January 27, 2024
Organized presentation “Beyond Survival” with the People’s Music Network and New York State Poor People’s Campaign Arts and Culture committee

Composers Now Impact Series May 18, 2023
Impact Series composer portrait, produced and edited video feature/retrospective

New York University April 22, 2023
“Songs In the Key of Resistance” Co-produced and performed in public workshop at NYU Tisch School; helped edit video document

Anne Arundel Community College, Workshop/Performance “Composing and Improvising with Polyrhythm” (lecture) Feature Quartet Performance	Oct. 22, 2022
Princeton University, Workshop/Performance Workshop/performance on the music of Hermeto Pascoal, So Percussion summer intensive	July 12, 2022
Imagine Jazz Summer Institute, Masterclass Rhythm and improvisation (Spokane WA) with Rogerio Boccato Quartetto	June 3, 2022
Graduate Center, CUNY, Lecture Composing for improvisers, guest lecture	Nov. 2, 2021
American Musicological Society, Conference “Musical Autonomy and Forms of Resistance”, Paper and Panelist	Nov. 1, 2019
Shastra Symposium, William Patterson College, Conference “Composing Sacred Music in the 21 st Century”, Paper	Sept. 28, 2018
University of Toronto, Masterclass “Composing for Improvisers”, lecture	Jan. 27, 2017
Society for Music Theory, Conference “Composing in New York’s Improvised Music Scene”, Paper	Nov. 5, 2016

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	2023
Managed budget for interdisciplinary workshop program associated with Poor People's Campaign public arts and culture education program	
Humanities New York	2022-23
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>	
New York Foundation For The Arts	2022
Received fellowship in music, unrestricted grant to further artistic achievement	
Arts Westchester	2021
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	
Civic Liberal Arts Funding	2021-22
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)	
Tricentric Foundation Commission	2015
Commissioned by organization of NEA Jazz Master Anthony Braxton to compose an original chamber orchestra for improvisers. Premiered November 2015, recording released in 2016	
NY City College of Technology Open Lab Fellowship	2015
Received distinction for innovative pedagogy for community-based learning assignment (Jazz History)	
North-South Consonance Ensemble Composition Award	2014
Featured performance of the work "Resonances" for chamber ensemble	
New Music USA Composer Assistance Program	2013
Support funding to facilitate premier of new work <i>The Dust Moves</i>	
Jerome Foundation Commission	2013
Funding to create new work <i>The Dust Moves</i> , released in 2016 on Infrequent Seams Produced and edited feature DVD release	
Bird On A Wire	2011
Commission to compose work for recorder and 6-point surround sound electronics, Montreal premier and recording by Terri Hron	
City University, Baisley Powell Elebash Foundation	2010
Received annual award for compositional excellence	
Atlantic Center for the Arts residency	2008
Residency at New Smyrna Beach, FL center with MacArthur Genius awardee George Lewis, produced site-specific sound installation	

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

Major Label Recordings and Touring

Got My Wings (Adhyaropa Records)

Ballet score released on international label/distributor for contemporary music, featured on ASCAP's national playlist "new music Friday" and Chamber Music USA Fall issue

2025

Da Fé (Sunnyside Records)

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

2021-present

The Digging (Sunnyside Records) 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	2016-present
Alune Wade (Enja Records, Sony Music/Cristal Records) Arranger and featured soloist for “African Fast Food” and “Sultan” Touring ensemble 2017-2023	2017-2023
Mivos Quartet 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	2013-2017
Esperanza Spalding/Radio Music Society (Concord Music Group) Winner: Grammy award for Best Vocal Jazz album Soloist and multi-instrumental ensemble performance Appearances with large ensemble and quartet at 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	2012-2016
Julian Lage Group (Emarcy Records) Saxophonist, composer/arranger with Grammy-nominated guitarist Performed with touring ensemble at Montreux Jazz Festival, Tanglewood Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival	

Selected Performances

Smalls Jazz Club Featured soloist with Grammy-winning pianist Leo Genovese Quintet (featuring Grammy-nominated trumpeter/composer Tim Hagans)	February 9, 2025
Ornithology Jazz Club Dan Blake and The Digging, featured performer	December 12, 2025
Lunatico Featured soloist with Leo Genovese and “Caudillos” (featuring Guggenheim composition fellow Peter Evans)	December 2, 2025
El Shomrei Synagogue Featured soloist on “Guitar In Many Guises” with renowned guitarist Dan Lippel	November 23, 2025
Up Front Gallery Featured performer with Bob Meyer trio	October 18, 2025
Birds (NYC) Featured soloist with Grammy-nominated percussionist Rogerio Boccato	October 10, 2025
Smalls Jazz Club Album release concert for <i>Got My Wings</i> at renowned New York jazz club	September 24, 2025

Bar Bayeux Featured soloist with Leo Genovese and “Matreros”	August 27, 2025
Nublu Performance with Rogerio Boccato Quartetto	August 23, 2025
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 award-winning artist Koyoltzintli in 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 Performer in Songs In the Key of Resistance performance Kairos Center for Religions and Social Justice book launch event	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 with Grammy-nominated bassist Jorge Roeder, 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
LaGuardia Community College Panelist and featured performer on Composers Now “Dialogues” moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and founder Tania León	Sept. 19, 2024
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 icon Steve Lacy for funded performance series in New York City	Oct 27, 2023

Katonah Space Live premier of original ballet work <i>Got My Wings</i> Organized community conversations with criminal justice and prison education organizations Rehabilitation Through the Arts and Release Aging People from Prison	Feb. 1-3, 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

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

Discography

Lukas Ligeti, “Kaleidoscope Point”	New World Records	2026
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
Alune Wade, “Sultan”	Enja Records	2022
Dan Blake, “Da Fé”	Sunnyside Records	2021
Dan Blake/Robert Dick, “Laugh and Lie Down”	Chant Records	2021
Leo Genovese, “Legal Aliens”	Twitin Records	2021
Blake/Laubrock/Irabagon, “The Cat of Sadness”	Carrier Records	2020
Devin Drobka, “Amaranth”	Shifting Paradigm Records	2018
Rogério Boccato, “No Old Rain”	Red Piano Records	2018
Alune Wade, “African Fast Food”	Sony Music/Cristal	2017
Dan Blake, “The Digging”	Sunnyside Records	2016
Dan Blake, “The Dust Moves” (DVD)	Infrequent Seams	2016
Leo Genovese, “Seeds”	Palmetto Records	2013
Esperanza Spalding, “Radio Music Society”	Concord (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
Sofia Rei, “Ojala”	Self-release	2007
Dan Blake: “The Party Suite”	Self-release	2006

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--