

Ryan Kimbrell

Saxophonist, Developer, Music Director, Producer

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Education

2018 Post-Graduate Fellowship – Berklee College of Music–Valencia

2017 Master of Music – Contemporary Performance (Production), Berklee College of Music–Valencia

2016 Bachelor of Music – Music Performance (Jazz Studies), University of Wisconsin–Madison

Principle Teachers/Mentors

Perico Sambeat, Saxophone and Improvisation, Berklee Valencia, psambeat@berklee.edu

Leslie Thimmig, Saxophone and Jazz Improvisation, UW-Madison, lthimmig@wisc.edu

Richard Davis, Jazz Improvisation and Leadership, UW-Madison

Johannes Wallman, Jazz Arranging, Composition, and Improvisation, UW-Madison, wallmann@wisc.edu

Musical Instrument Competencies

Saxophone

- 15+ years playing experience
- Alto, Baritone, and Soprano

Keyboards

- 15+ years playing experience (Piano, Electric Keyboards, Synthesizers)
- Experience in analog synthesizer patch design

DAWs

- 5+ years experience in Ableton Live Suite
- Experience with professional third party software: Antares Auto-Tune, Celemony Melodyne, iZotope Rx, iZotope Ozone, Valhalla DSP, Revoice Pro, etc.
- Experience recording using Pro Tools, Logic Pro X, Cubase

Notation Software

- 15+ years experience notating scores in Finale
- Experience using Sibelius notation software

Computer Programming Experience & Competencies

Web Development

- Solely responsible for <http://spotifytools.net> (a web application that allows spotify users to interact with the Spotify API to gather data related to the music they listen to and generate playlists of recommended music)
- Solely responsible for <http://ryankimbrell.com> (personal website)
- Online Course in Web Development (edX, Harvard) in Python/Django, JavaScript, CSS, HTML - July 2020
- Online Course in Python (Stanford University “Code In Place”) - March 2020
- Digital Signal Processing in Python (utilizing an online course via Coursera) (self-study)
- Knowledge of C++ and its implementation in the JUCE framework for audio application development (self-study)

Performing/Directing/Arranging Experience

Berklee Valencia Pop Groove Ensemble, 2018

- Horn section work with fresh arrangements of pop hits from the 60’s to today (e.g. Bill Withers, Michael Jackson, Kelly Price)

Berklee Valencia Fusion Ensemble, 2017

- Rehearsed and performed with notable Bass Player Gary Willis (Tribal Tech)
- Improvisation Experience in non-jazz fusion styles
- Experience interacting in a small group avant-garde electroacoustic setting

Berklee Valencia Groove Ensemble, 2016

- Experience performing Funk, R&B, Soul, and Neo-Soul styles from the 1960’s to today
- Experience with difficult contemporary groove music (e.g. Hiatus Kaiyote, Moonchild, Snarky Puppy)

UW Jazz Orchestra, 2013-2016

- Experience as both Baritone Saxophone player (2 years), and also Lead Alto Saxophone (1 year)
- Repertoire consists mainly of Contemporary Big Band works (e.g. Thad Jones, Bob Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider, Gordon Goodwin), and Afro-Cuban Big Band works (e.g. Afro-Cuban Allstars)
- Improvisation experience
- Performed/Rehearsed with many guest artists including: Brian Lynch, Sharón Clark, Ingrid Jensen, Juan de Marcos González, Mitch Butler, John Fedchock, Chris Washburne, and Bob Sheppard

UW Black Music Ensemble, 2013-2016

- Creating reinventions of well-known songs, as well as bringing lesser-known songs to light in order to promote the performance of music of black artists and the amplification of black voices in a predominantly white institution.
- Experience playing Alto and Baritone Saxophone, Voice, and Keyboards/Piano.
- Improvisation Experience
- Experience as a bandleader, and in organizing groups of musicians
- Arranging experience

UW Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, 2016, Alto Saxophone

- Improvisation experience within a contemporary harmonic setting
- Experience interacting in a small group setting

UW Blue Note Ensemble, 2014, Alto Saxophone

- Close study of two specific artists: Freddie Hubbard and Donald Byrd
- Repertoire ranging from traditional swing to funk
- Improvisation experience
- Experience interacting in a small group

UW Latin Jazz Ensemble, 2015, Baritone Saxophone Substitute on Multiple Performances

- Sight reading experience
- Experience as a substitute in an unfamiliar group.
- Experience in Afro-Cuban music

The MadHatters Men's A Cappella, 2013-2016

- Music Director (2014-2015), included organizing and running rehearsals, directing studio recording sessions, arranging music, auditioning new members, and running sound checks.
- Arranged and Transcribed more than 20 individual songs, medleys, and mash-ups across many genres including Pop, Funk, R&B, Soul, Jazz, Rock, Hip-Hop, and Country.
- Performed for thousands of people at venues of many sizes including the half-time show at a professional football game.
- Led workshops at high schools around the Midwest in reference to A Cappella arranging, music theory, rehearsal technique, and performance technique.

InterMission Theatre, 2013-2015

- Arranged over 20 popular Musical Theater pieces for 10-piece band and a chorus of singers to put on a cabaret fundraising performance each year (3 total Cabarets)
- Directed and conducted the cabaret, played Alto Saxophone in the pit, and sung solos.
- Lead some choir rehearsals and individual soloist rehearsal sessions, as well as pit orchestra rehearsals.

Badger Game Network, 2013

- Composed and Arranged music for projects led by game developers
- Lead a committee of musicians with an array of backgrounds within the larger interdisciplinary team
- Student Organization won Wisconsin Idea prize for interdisciplinary collaboration

Other Relevant Musical Competencies/Courses

- 3 semesters of Recording technique study at Berklee
- 2 semesters of Electronic music production and Sound Design in Ableton Live Suite at Berklee
- 5 semesters of Music Theory and Analysis including counterpoint study, Analysis in Classical period, Romantic period, impressionist period, Serial and twelve-tone study, contemporary tonal work, and jazz theory from standards to modern work at Wisconsin-Madison
- Composition course in serial and twelve-tone study at Wisconsin-Madison
- Semester long course with Juan de Marcos González in Afro-Cuban Music from its roots to its present day hip-hop fusion.
- Independent study course specializing in popular music performance in the instrumentation of the Hornheads Horn Ensemble (Baritone Saxophone)
- Arrangement of Captain Marvel (Chick Corea) performed by UW Composers Septet (Fall 2015)
- Arrangement of Just Around the Corner (Herbie Hancock) performed by UW Jazz Orchestra (Spring 2016)