

Curriculum Vitae

Alex Graham

Associate Professor of Music, Belmont University (tenured)

Saxophones

Flutes

Clarinet

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Nashville, TN 37204

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EDUCATION

Degrees Earned

Eastman School of Music, DMA in Jazz and Contemporary Media Studies-Performance (2009)

Dissertation: *The Living Framework: Miles Davis and the Evolution of the American Popular Song*

Selected Faculty

Ray Ricker, saxophone and clarinet

Bill Dobbins, arranging and composition

Dariusz Terefenko, music theory

Harold Danko, improvisation

Wayne State University, MM in Jazz Studies-Performance (2005)

Selected Faculty

Larry Nozero, saxophone

Ervin Monroe, flute (former principal of Detroit Symphony Orchestra)

New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, BFA Jazz Studies-Performance (1994)

Selected Faculty

Vincent Herring, Billy Harper, Arnie Lawrence, and Steve Wilson, saxophone

Bob Belden and Henry Martin, composition and music theory

EMPLOYMENT

Belmont University, 08/2011 to present

Title: Associate Professor of Music (Tenured)

Responsibilities:

- Maintain and develop an undergraduate and graduate saxophone studio
- Teach applied lessons to commercial woodwind students (saxophones, clarinet, flute, oboe, and bassoon)
- Direct a weekly classical saxophone seminar and direct regular rehearsals and performances of saxophone chamber music including quartets and large ensemble works
- Direct a weekly commercial winds seminar (which includes brass and other woodwind instruments)
- Direct Jazz Small Group I, Belmont's top small jazz group
- Direct Jazz Small Group II, Belmont's intermediate level small jazz group
- Direct Jazz Ensemble II, Belmont University's intermediate level big band
- Teach undergraduate Saxophone Pedagogy
- Teach undergraduate Saxophone Technique and Literature I and II
- Teach Commercial Pedagogy (graduate level)
- Teach Advanced Commercial Music Styles (graduate level)
- Teach Advanced Commercial Improvisation (graduate level)
- Teach Senior Capstone Theory and History Review course
- Perform with Faculty Jazz Group at least once per semester
- Perform in a wide variety of solo and chamber settings with faculty (classical and jazz)
- Participate in regular faculty meetings with members of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the School of Music, the Commercial Music department, ensemble directors, and instrumental faculty
- Bring in established educators and performers to conduct master classes
- Direct annual jazz festival and coordinate logistics and performances with instrumental guest artists including John Fedchock (2014), Danny Gottlieb (2016), and the Nashville Jazz Orchestra (2018)
- Serve on the School of Music Performance Council (2015 to present)
- Serve on the Belmont University Faculty Senate (2015 to present)
- Serve on the School of Music NASM Subcommittee for Recruitment, Admission-Retention, Record Keeping, and Advisement (2015 to 2017)
- Serve as a major or minor mentor for commercial graduate students completing their theses/culminating projects (2013 to present)
- Serve on Music Education Task force, charged with exploring ways to incorporate elements of Belmont University's commercial music program into the Music Education curriculum (2014-15)
- Serve on Belmont University Diversity Committee (2016-2017)
- Serve as chair of Guitar Search Committee, (2016-17)
- Serve on Music Core Group to develop more comprehensive and effective curriculum for all School of Music Students

Eastern Michigan University, 09/2009 to 2011

Title: Artist in Residence

Responsibilities:

- Conduct 6-8 workshops per semester with the big band and small group
- Work extensively with the big band saxophone section to develop aspects of sound, style, blending, phrasing and technique
- Develop and teach a jazz history course: *Appreciating Jazz: America's Music*
- Appear as a featured performer at multiple events and concerts

Mackinac Jazz Initiative, 06/2008 to present

Title: Director

Responsibilities:

- Bring students to perform (paid) and study for 8-week summer sessions at Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI
- Develop a curriculum of study that develops students' abilities to perform effectively in a small jazz groups.. Students learn melodies, harmonies, rhythms and song forms by ear and become comfortable switching keys and playing a wide variety of standard jazz repertoire
- Provide an environment where students perform 2-3 sets of jazz quartet/trio with their peers and other professionals 6-7 nights a week.
- Direct rehearsals
- Hire and develop a staff of experienced players and educators who will provide private lessons and other educational opportunities

Grand Hotel, 05/2001 to present

Title: Music Director

Responsibilities:

- Perform in a variety of situations as needed
- Hire, schedule and supervise staff of up to fifty musicians a year to perform nightly in jazz and commercial style septets, sextets, quartets, trios, duos and solo situations
- Perform in annual Jazz Festival as a leader and in conjunction with various headline artists
- Lead and construct music groups for a variety of events and styles, including various jazz styles, dance music and classical music.
- Mediate rehearsals and arrange charts for various instrumentations including arrangements for vocalists Diane Schuur, Marlena Shaw and John Boutte
- Coordinate schedules and logistics of, and perform media outreach for Jazz Festival including headliners Ramsey Lewis, Dave Brubeck, John Pizzarelli, Pete Fountain, The Count Basie Orchestra, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Kurt Elling, Wynton Marsalis, George Shearing and many others
- Participate in regularly scheduled staff meetings

PERFORMER

Notable Individuals Performed with as a Leader or Sideman (*Jazz*)

Bass

Rodney Whitaker
Duane Burno
John Webber
Doug Weiss
David Wong
Jeff Campbell

Piano

Sam Yahel
Dena Derose
Aaron Goldberg
Mark Levine
Michael Weiss
David Hazeltine
Spike Wilner

Trombone

Wycliffe Gordon
John Fedchock
Steve Davis

Trumpet

Louis Smith
Joe Magnarelli
Jim Rotondi
Ryan Kisor
Scott Wendholt

Drums

Joe Farnsworth
Duffy Jackson
Carl Allen
Chester Thompson

Saxophone

Ian Hendrickson-Smith
Wessell Anderson
Grant Stewart
Jeff Coffin

Vocalists

Nnenna Freelon
Diane Schuur
John Boutte

Guitar

Peter Bernstein

Notable Groups or Individuals Performed with as a Sideman (*Popular Music*)

Keb' Mo'

Martina McBride

Robben Ford

Nashville Symphony Orchestra

Patti LaBelle

Aretha Franklin

The Temptations

The Four Tops

The O Jays

Christine Ebersole

Selected Discography, (Bandleader)

- Alex Graham, *Brand New*, Alex Graham, alto saxophone, Jim Rotondi, trumpet, Steve Davis, trombone, David Hazeltine, piano, Rodney Whitaker, bass, Carl Allen, drums, Origin Arts, 2008.
- Alex Graham, *The Good Life*, Alex Graham, alto saxophone, flute, and clarinet, Rick Roe, piano, Rodney Whitaker, bass, Joe Strasser, drums, Origin Arts, 2005.
- Radio Action, *Hi-Fi*, Alex Graham, alto saxophone, Whitney Ashe, piano, Gary Wang, bass, Matt Jorgensen, drums, Origin Arts, 1998.
- Alex Graham, *Countdown*, Alex Graham, alto saxophone, Louis Smith, trumpet, Joe Magnarelli, trumpet, Rick Roe, piano, John Webber, bass, Joe Farnsworth, drums, SKR, 1995.

Selected Reviews

Brand New

- “It's a rollicking, well-crafted session comprised of "new standards" (Hazeltine's charts on "You Make Me Feel Brand New" and "For The Love Of You"), two grooving originals and three songbook charts by Graham. A careful, lucid improviser, Graham references, with erudition and panache, vocabulary and tonal connotations from Cannonball Adderley, Phil Woods, Jackie McLean, Kenny Garrett and Donald Harrison, among others.” –Ted Panken, Downbeat, May, 2009.

The Good Life

- “... Graham plays fluently and unpretentiously with an attractive tone that's somewhat evocative of Kenny Garrett's. And his slow-tempo work, as on "The Good Life," is tender and moving.”- David Franklin, Jazz Times

Hi-Fi

- “... Graham's alto statement is stunningly lyrical as it rides the melody line over Ashe's comping piano.. [he] establishes the ground rules for the way the music is to be advanced. Some of the great alto players, Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderley, Phil Woods and even a touch of Johnny Hodges can be discerned as he works to extend the parameters of the horn on such cuts as ‘Enlah’ and the album's tour de force track, Graham's haunting, absorbing ‘More or Less’.”- Dave Nathan, AMG

Classical Saxophone and Flute Performances

- *California Suite*, multi-movement suite by Claude Bolling for multiple flutes, soprano saxophone, and rhythm section. Performed October 8, 2018 in McAfee Concert Hall, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- *Glide*, by Stephen Lias for alto saxophone and woodwind quintet, multiple performances, spring, 2015
- *Night Winds*, by Roger Vogel for alto saxophone and woodwind quintet, multiple performances, spring, 2015
- *Sonata*, by Robert Muczinski for alto saxophone and piano, multiple performances in Taiwan (Taipei, Taichung), Korea (Seoul,) and China (Shanghai, Xian), October, 2014 and Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang) and China (Harbin, Dalian), October, 2015
- *Improvisation et Caprice*, by Eugene Bozza for unaccompanied saxophone, performed in Seoul, South Korea, October, 2014.
- *Electric Violin Concerto, Mvt. 2*, by Tracy Silverman, arranged for alto saxophone, July, 2014.

- *Sinfonia da Camera* by Pierre Max Dubois for alto saxophone and woodwind quintet, multiple performances, spring, 2013
- *Intrada* by Bernard Heiden for alto saxophone and woodwind quintet, multiple performances, spring, 2013
- *Ballade Carnavalesque* by Charles Loeffler, for alto saxophone, flute, oboe, bassoon and piano, multiple performances, spring, 2013
- *Blues Concerto* by Bill Holcombe, performed with the Belmont Faculty Brass Quintet, multiple performances, fall, 2011, and as soloist in Seoul, South Korea, October, 2014.

CONFERENCES (National and International *only*)

- Featured performance (soprano saxophone) with guitarist Paulo Oliveira at the Biennial North American Saxophone Alliance conference (N.A.S.A.) in Cincinnati, OH (March, 2018)
- Featured performance (tenor and alto saxophones) with Xavier Saxophone Quartet at first Asian Saxophone Congress, Chiayi, Taiwan (December, 2016)
- Jazz masterclass at first Asian Saxophone Congress, Chiayi, Taiwan (December, 2016)
- Featured performance (alto and tenor saxophone) with the Alex Graham Quartet at the Biennial North American Saxophone Alliance conference (N.A.S.A.) in Urbana, IL (March, 2014)
- Featured Performance with “Jupiter All-Stars” including John Fedchock (trombone), Scott Wendholt (trumpet), Phil DeGreg (piano), Lou Fisher (bass) and Derico Watson (drums) at the Jazz Education Network conference (National) in Dallas, TX (January, 2014)
- Featured performance with the Alex Graham Quartet at the Jazz Education Network conference (National) in Atlanta, GA (January, 2013)
- Featured performance at the Biennial North American Saxophone Alliance conference (N.A.S.A.) in Tempe, AZ (March, 2012)
- Featured lecture/recital at the Bi-Annual Conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance (N.A.S.A.) in Tempe, AZ (March, 2012): “*Miles’ Styles: Group Concepts for Building and Developing Effective Solos and Performances*”

GUEST LECTURES AND MASTERCLASSES

Notable Venues

- Eastman School of Music, November, 2011. Lecture Recital: “*Telling a Story: Concepts for Building and Developing Effective Saxophone Solos*”
- University of Michigan, School of Music, Ann Arbor, MI. Jazz composition performance and clinic, December, 2015.
- Hall High School, West Hartford, CT. Big band master class and clinic, December, 2015.
- Hartford Academy of the Arts, jazz master class and quartet performance,

- Hartford, CT, December, 2015
- Various venues in Malaysia and China, saxophone and jazz master class and concert tour, October, 2015
 - Various venues in Taiwan, Korea and China, saxophone and jazz master class and concert tour, October, 2014
 - Nashville Jazz Workshop Summer Jazz Camp, saxophone technique clinic, small group coaching, and featured performance with faculty, June, 2016.
 - Magic City Jazz Festival, Minot, ND. Featured performance as guest artist and lecturer. Conduct masterclasses with multiple high school big bands, February, 2018.
 - Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI. Big band performance clinic and saxophone section intensive, December, 2015.
 - Veerkamp Mesones, Mexico City, Mexico. Saxophone technique clinic, and woodwind competition adjudication, November, 2015.
 - Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Master class with big band saxophone section, September, 2015.
 - Belmont University, October, 2012, Lecture recital: *“Miles’ Styles: Group Concepts for Building and Developing Effective Solos and Performances”*
 - Oakland University, March, 2011. Lecture Recital: *“Telling a Story: Concepts for Building and Developing Effective Saxophone Solos”*
 - Eastern Michigan University, March, 2011. Master Class: *“Playing in a Big Band Saxophone Section.”*
 - Detroit Jazz Workshop, July, 2010. Master Class.
 - University of Michigan, December, 2008. Lecture Recital: *“Miles’ Styles: Group Concepts for Building and Developing Effective Solos and Performances”*
 - Northwood University, January, 2008: *“In a Jam: Creative Communication in Jazz Improvisation”*
 - University of Toledo, March, 2005: *“Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement”*
 - Various West Coast universities 1997-1998: Led several jazz performance clinics as part of two separate tours with the Alex Graham Quartet.

COMPOSER AND ARRANGER

Selected Compositions

- “Wired” (2015). Composed for Nashville Jazz Composer’s Collective, and performed with the Alex Graham Quartet on December tour, 2015
- “Gratitude” (2015). Composed for Faculty Concert Series Performance, March 16, 2015
- “Sketchy” (2012). Composed for the W.O. Smith Music School composer’s series hosted by saxophonist Jeff Coffin.
- “Rocket Science” (2007). Included on the recording *Brand New*.
- “Pig Pig” (2007). Included on the recording *Brand New*.
- “The Bear” (2006). Composed for first DMA recital at the Eastman School of Music, and performed by Nashville Jazz Composer’s Collective in 2016.

- “Push” (2005). Included on the recording *The Good Life*.
- “Blues For K” (2004). Included on the recording *Live in New York: Featuring John Boutte*.
- “Northern Lights Suite” (2000). A four-movement piece for multiple winds and percussion, recorded and performed by the composer.
- Multiple Pop Songs (1998). Composed, performed and recorded during a 1-month residency at the Millay Colony in Austerlitz, NY.
- “Explosion” (1998), included on the recording *Hi-Fi* and recorded with the band Radio Action.
- “More or Less” (1998), included on the recording *Hi-Fi* and recorded with the band Radio Action.
- “Thirsty Eyes” (1995). Included on the recording *Countdown*.
- “The Mole People” (1995). Included on the recording *Countdown*.

Selected Arrangements

- “All the Things You Are” (2007). Arranged for sextet (trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Brand New*.
- “Just You, Just Me” (2007). Arranged for sextet (trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Brand New*.
- “Where or When” (2007). Arranged for sextet (trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Brand New*.
- “Autumn in New York” (2007). Arranged for and performed by the Eastman School of Music Studio Orchestra.
- “I Had the Craziest Dream” (2005). Arranged for quartet (alto sax, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *The Good Life*.
- “Almost Like Being in Love” (2004). Arranged for septet (vocalist, trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Live in New York: Featuring John Boutte*.
- “All of Me” (2004). Arranged for septet (vocalist, trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Live in New York: Featuring John Boutte*.
- “I Cover the Waterfront” (2004). Arranged for septet (vocalist, trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Live in New York: Featuring John Boutte*.
- “Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?” (2004). Arranged for septet (vocalist, trumpet, alto sax, trombone, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Live in New York: Featuring John Boutte*.
- “Russian Lullaby” (1998). Arranged for quartet (alto sax, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Hi-Fi* and recorded with the band Radio Action.
- “Con Alma” (1998). Arranged for quartet (alto sax, piano, bass and drums). Included on the recording *Hi-Fi* and recorded with the band Radio Action.

RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alden B. Dow Creativity Center, Midland, MI

Fellowship

Summer, 2000

- Awarded participation in a paid ten-week residency for selected artists, writers and composers
- Designed project which included composing and recording a 4-movement piece for soprano, tenor, alto saxophone, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute, various percussion, acoustic guitar and didgeridoo
- Played each instrument and combined tracks using Pro Tools computer software
- Performed composition on alto saxophone for live audience with six separate pre-recorded parts in “surround sound”

The Millay Colony for the Arts, Austerlitz, New York,

Residency

September, 1998

- Completed a composition project at competitive residency program for composers, visual artists and writers
- Wrote and recorded seven songs on 4-track cassette recorder using voice, electric guitar, electric bass, drums, piano
- Learned and performed parts for all instruments for the recording

PUBLICATIONS

- “*Building and Developing Captivating Solos: Some Insight from Alex Graham*,” published online for Vandoren at <http://vandorenblog.com/building-and-developing-captivating-solos-some-insight-from-alex-graham/>

ADJUDICATION

- Adjudicated MTNA Young Artist Woodwind Competition, Murray State University, Murray, KY (November 3, 2013)
- Adjudicated KMTA Bluegrass Young Artist Chamber Music Competition, Murray State University, Murray, KY (November 3, 2013)
- Adjudicated Nashville Area Music Teachers Audition (woodwinds), Belmont University, Nashville, TN (March 9, 2013)