

# The Chicago Academy for the Arts

## Music Department Faculty

### **Daniel Bruce**

*Department Chair, jazz combo, jazz guitar, jazz improvisation, ear training, jazz history, chamber music coach*

Guitarist Daniel Bruce is active as a performer, recording artist, composer and educator. He moved to Chicago in 2007, after finishing his master's degree in jazz studies at the University of North Texas. He was quickly performing at a number of the city's finest jazz venues including The Green Mill, The Jazz Showcase, and Harris Theatre in Millennium Park. As a jazz performer and recording artist, Bruce has had the opportunity to work with a number of eminent musicians including Ali Jackson, Dan Wall, Lynn Seaton, The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Marvin Stamm, New York Voices, Stefan Karlsson, Bobby Selvaggio, and the Chicago Childrens' Choir. He has been a featured composer in *Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine*, and remains a regular contributor. Daniel released *A Single Thread*, his first album as a leader, in 2007 on NohJoh records.

Daniel has held faculty positions at Muskingum College, Cuyahoga Community College, Harold Washington College, St. Xavier University, and Interlochen Center for the Arts. Bruce was awarded a Teaching Fellowship upon entrance to UNT where he taught applied jazz guitar lessons, directed two guitar ensembles and a student big band while pursuing his own studies at the University. He is currently the Music Department Chair at Chicago Academy for the Arts.

[www.danielbrucemusic.com](http://www.danielbrucemusic.com)

### **Alyssa Bennett**

*Voice, vocal technique workshop*

Alyssa Bennett received her BA in Music at Luther College and her MM in Voice and Opera at Northwestern University. Currently she enjoys a varied performing career in Chicago, and also around the world as featured soprano soloist with Trio Chicago & Friends performing concerts of American music in destinations as far-reaching as Turkey, Ethiopia, Mali, Zambia, Uganda, Russia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Jordan -- with upcoming tours in Egypt, Syria and Mongolia.

Highlights on the concert stage include Benjamin Britten's *Ballad of Heroes* with Chicago's Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra, Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Northshore Chamber Orchestra, Bach's *Mass in B minor* with the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's *Laudate Dominum (Vesperae solennes de confessore)* with the University of Iowa Chamber Orchestra, and Handel's *Messiah* with the Luther College Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist in contemporary and new music, Ms. Bennett has performed Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, and also the Chicago premiere of Ronald Perera's *Visions* with the Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, as well as the premier performance of *The Heart Poems* by John Howell Morrison for the Cleveland Composers Guild. Former posts include the voice faculty of Judson College, Elgin, Illinois, and graduate assistantship studio voice instruction at Northwestern University.

## **Naomi Bensdorf-Frisch**

*Oboe*

Oboist Naomi Bensdorf Frisch enjoys an active career as a performer and music educator. Along with holding principal Oboe positions in the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Ms. Bensdorf Frisch performs regularly with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra during their season at the Chicago Cultural Center and as principal Oboe for their residency at the Southern Illinois Music Festival. As a soloist, Naomi has performed with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. In demand as a freelance musician, Ms. Bensdorf Frisch has recently performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Tulsa Opera and Symphony Orchestras, the Elgin Symphony, the South Bend Symphony, Light Opera Works, and others. She can be heard on recordings with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the Elgin Symphony and in a collection of the chamber music of renowned Chicago composer M. William Karlins, available on Hungaroton Records.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Bensdorf Frisch received her Bachelor of Music Magna cum Laude from Northwestern University, and her Masters of Music with Distinction from DePaul University. As a 1999-2000 Fulbright Scholar, Naomi traveled to Germany to study with internationally renowned Oboist Ingo Goritzki and perform with the Southwest German Baroque Soloists. Her principal American teachers include Robert Morgan, Ray Still, and Judith Kulb.

In addition to performing, Ms. Bensdorf Frisch works often with the Chicago area's young musicians. She is in demand as a private Oboe teacher, offering private Oboe lessons at the Music Institute of Chicago and the North Shore School for the Arts, among others. Currently, she is a member of the music faculty at North Park University and DePaul University. Naomi coaches woodwind chamber music for the award-winning Midwest Young Artists program and runs their summer woodwind chamber music camp. Currently she resides in Chicago with her husband, Aaron.

[www.oboenaomi.com](http://www.oboenaomi.com)

## **Rose Colella**

*Jazz Voice, piano lab, vocal jazz workshop*

Rose Colella is a Chicago-based jazz vocalist and owner of Lola Bard Productions, a booking agency specializing in jazz entertainment for Chicago and the North Shore. Rose is a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University with a BM in Jazz Voice, and regularly performs at such venues as Pops for Champagne, The Drake Hotel, The Pump Room and Katerina's, along with many other clubs and restaurants. In addition to performing live, Rose freelances as a composer, arranger, lyricist, recording artist and Music Director, and will be releasing her first album, *Small Hours*, in early 2009.

[www.rosecoellatrio.com](http://www.rosecoellatrio.com)

## **Ray Coyle**

*Percussion/mallets*

Ray grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne in England and started drumming at an early age. After working in clubs backing vocalists he later studied with Alan Fearon ( principal tympanist/conductor with the Northern Symphony Orchestra) and gained degrees in jazz and classical percussion from Newcastle College of Arts and Technology and Trinity College London. Looking for work opportunities and a chance to get out of England he emigrated to Netherlands where he went back to school and studied with Koos Langelaan , Jan Wissink and Terra de Marez - Oyens and gained a Masters degree in performance specialising in mallets and composition, whilst also learning Dutch. Ray has a wide musical experience having worked in Europe and the United States both as a drummer and mallet player and also a teacher at the collegiate level. He is very active in Chicago with various projects such as Bending The Map and The Cinzano Jazz Trio.

[www.raycoyle.com](http://www.raycoyle.com)

## **James Davis**

*Trumpet*

James Davis is an active professional trumpet player, composer and educator in the Chicago area. He received his Masters Degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of North Texas and Undergraduate Music Degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Mr. Davis is on faculty at Triton College in River Grove, IL and is an active private instructor in the Chicago area.

Davis has toured and recorded with his own Quintet and the co-lead group Zing!, on the Chicago-based ears&eyes Record label. He regularly performs with many different musical ensembles including the Tomorrow Music Orchestra, the Stone-Bratt Big Band, the Ian Torres Big Band, the Jason Steele Ensemble, and Balkano. Davis has toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the Grammy nominated One O'Clock Lab Band, where he was frequently featured as a soloist.

Davis was a finalist in the 2007 Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Competition held in Tucson, Arizona and a finalist in the 2004 International Trumpet Guild Jazz Improvisation Competition held in Denver, Colorado. In 2008 Davis participated in the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead residency held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and the Steans Institute Program for Jazz at the Ravinia Festival.

[www.jcdavis.org](http://www.jcdavis.org)

## **Jon Deitemyer**

*Jazz drumset*

Jon Deitemyer has quickly earned his place among a new breed of creative, expressive jazz drummers. Grammy-winning singer Patricia Barber raves: "Jon Deitemyer is the drummer everybody wants right now..." and Chicagojazz.com says: "Jon Deitemyer has earned a reputation as a must-hear drummer and doesn't disappoint." He graduated summa cum laude from the esteemed University of North Texas and spent substantial time at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

In only a short professional career, Jon has performed/recorded with Grazyna Auguscik, Patricia Barber, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Greg Osby, Typhanie Monique, Zach Brock, Sam Barsh, Matt Ulery's Loom, Ben Paterson, Information Superhighway, Ryan Cohan, and Lynn Seaton. In addition, Jon's role in music education has grown rapidly: he has earned an Illinois Arts Council grant for education and is currently a faculty member of DePaul University's Community Music program.

[www.jondeitemyer.com](http://www.jondeitemyer.com)

## **Roderick Ferguson**

*Piano*

A native of Gadsden, Alabama, Roderick Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Birmingham-Southern College (magna cum laude). Mr. Ferguson later earned a Master of Music Degree from the University of Houston where he studied with world-renowned concert artist Abbey Simon. His studies have also taken him to the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA and Northwestern University, where he undertook post-graduate study.

A two-time winner of the Alys R. Stephens Piano Competition (Alabama), winner of an Obelisk Award for excellence in the performing arts (Alabama) and the inaugural winner of the Brazos Valley Young Artists Competition (Texas), Mr. Ferguson has a wide range of musical interests, from the standard repertoire to new music. Other teachers include Roy McAllister, Daniel Ericourt, Delores Hodgens-Howard and Deborah Sobol.

Mr. Ferguson's performing credits include solo, chamber and orchestral engagements, both in the U.S. and Europe. Concerto performances include Mozart's K. 450, Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto and the Grieg Concerto. As a senior fellow for the Chicago Chamber Musicians (CCM) and as a freelance artist, Mr. Ferguson has been a frequent guest at the Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago's WFMT radio station's live broadcasts and in other venues around Chicagoland and beyond.

He and long-time colleague clarinetist Wagner Campos can be heard on "Romantic Songs for Clarinet and Piano" on the Southport label as well as on an upcoming recording (along with Julie DeRoche and Larry Combs of the DePaul University School of Music and Chicago Symphony) of music for two and three clarinets (to be released in 2008). Together with Mr. Campos and flautist Julie Koidin, Mr. Ferguson formed the Ondas Ensemble in 2007. This ensemble is devoted to the performance of chamber music of Latin American composers from Central and South America and the USA. Through Ondas, Mr. Ferguson shares his love of collaboration, premiering new music and working with students from elementary school to college in lecture and master class settings.

Mr. Ferguson has taught on the faculties of the Houston Conservatory of Music and the Musikschule Kassel in Kassel, Germany. In 2000, he co-founded and is now the artistic and executive director of The Musical Offering, a non-profit community music school in Evanston, IL. In addition to his piano and chamber music teaching and frequent performances through The Musical Offering, Mr. Ferguson directs a highly successful outreach program in the Evanston, IL public schools. In 2008 Mr. Ferguson joined the faculty of the Chicago Academy for the Arts where he teaches piano.

[www.ondasensemble.com](http://www.ondasensemble.com)

## **Michael Hall**

*Violin, viola, string quartet, string ensemble, chamber music coach*

Michael Hall has appeared as a performer and teacher across Europe, Asia and the United States where he has been featured as a recitalist and clinician at numerous universities and festivals, including the Positano Chamber Music Festival in Italy, the Thailand International Composition Festival in Bangkok (2009/2010), the Vianden International Chamber Music Festival in Luxembourg, the University of Chicago New Music Ensemble and New York University's Composer's Concordance. He has twice presented world premieres at the International Viola Congresses at Minneapolis and Reykjavik, Iceland.

In his New York City solo debut Michael Hall was described by the *New Music Connoisseur* as "utterly masterful" and having "a gorgeous tone" for his performance of Marta Ptaszynska's *Elegia: in memoriam John Paul II*, a work dedicated to him by the composer. Other notable premieres have included solo viola works by Alfred Schnittke, Stephen Paulus, Jean Milew, Elliott Carter, Nico Muhly, Narong Prangcharoen, Michelle Dewhirst, David Kirtley, Anothai Nitibhon, David Vayo and Mario Pelusi.

An avid chamber musician, Hall was a founding member of the Lake String Quartet, Ensemble-in-Residence at Yellowstone National Park. Summer festivals include the Grand Teton Festival, the National Orchestral Institute, Concerti Cucomela Chamber Series (Italy), Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School, and the Aspen Music Festival, where he was a winner in the Indiana-Aspen Concerto Competition. Additionally, Hall has performed on National Public Radio's "Live From Studio A," and recorded for the Delos, Centaur, Acoma, Clarion, and Vienna Modern Masters labels.

Formerly President of the Chicago Viola Society, Hall has always sought to reach out to the next generation. Hall was awarded a Neighborhood Arts Program Grant from the City of Chicago to initiate a program titled the "Young Composer's Project." This project combined Howard Gardner's concepts of Multiple Intelligences with the basic building blocks of music to teach math and creative writing to children in grades K-6 in public elementary schools on Chicago's South Side.

Hall received his Doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, his Masters at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Bachelors at Ball State University. In addition to performing solo and chamber music recitals he performs with the Chicago Philharmonic, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra and is a founding member of the Chicago Miniaturist Ensemble and is on the faculties of Illinois Wesleyan University, VanderCook College of Music and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. His viola was made by Ferruccio Varagnolo, Milan, 1912.

## **Jesse Langen**

*Classical guitar, advanced theory, advanced ear training, composition, chamber music coach*

Jesse Langen has played master classes for Oscar Ghiglia, Elliot Fisk, Robert Guthrie, Sergio and Odair Assad, David Russell, Roberto Aussell, Nigel North, Paul O'Dette, the Amsterdam Guitar Trio, and the L.A. Guitar Quartet. Mr. Langen has also performed as a soloist at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, in Minneapolis for the Minnesota Guitar Society, in at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, at Columbia University in New York City, and at numerous venues in the Chicagoland area.

An avid performer of new music, Mr. Langen has premiered many pieces by American composers, most of which were dedicated to him. In 2002 he was a featured soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the Ravinia Festival "Romeo and Juliette" concert and in 1998, he was Vanessa Redgrave's accompanist in her show "Planet Without a Visa." Mr. Langen is currently pursuing a Doctor of Music degree at Northwestern University, and can be heard in recital frequently as a soloist and in duos with Susan Crandall (flute) and Amy Conn (soprano).

[www.jesselangen.com](http://www.jesselangen.com)

## **Stuart Mindeman**

*Staff accompanist, jazz piano*

Stuart Mindeman first took an interest in music as a child, and in 2009 he graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in piano performance. Stuart is an active performer and teacher throughout the Chicago metropolitan area, skilled in various styles of music, from Classical music to Jazz, Latin American music and contemporary popular music. He has performed throughout North and Central America with such artists as: Fareed Haque, Tito Carillo, John Wojcechowski, Rodney Whitaker, Claudio Roditi, Charles McPherson, Antonio Hart, John Clayton, and The Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble, among others.

## **Patrick Mulcahy**

*Bass*

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Patrick Mulcahy has been playing and performing professionally in Chicago for 6 years. Known for stylistic versatility and creativity, Patrick climbed to the top of the jazz scene in Chicago at an early age and performs regularly with many groups in different styles. He is stylistically fluent in Jazz, Rock, Progressive Metal, Funk, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, traditional Columbian, Orchestral, Gospel, World, and House music. He has performed in all of Chicago's top jazz clubs including the famed Green Mill and the storied Jazz Showcase. He has also performed in The Auditorium Theater, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, The Field Museum, and the Chicago Cultural Center. From 2005 through 2007 Patrick regularly performed "Menopause the Musical" in both it's Chicago and Rockford runs. His bass playing has also taken him out of Chicago with performances at The American Jazz Museum's "Blue Room", Pacchia in Dayton, Ohio, and Detroit's annual "Concert of Colors". He has performed numerous times at Chicago's "Jazz Composer's Collective". Driven by a hunger to use music as a platform for new opportunities and experiences, Patrick eagerly awaits the future.

**Jason Patera**

*Music theory*

Jason Patera has been teaching at the Arts Academy since 1998 and became Department Chair in 2002. He is the author of *Rhythm Boot Camp*, *Basic Changes*, and *Piano One: Exercises in Harmonic Technique* as well numerous letters and essays published in newspapers and magazines, including *JazzTimes* and the *Newsweek College Writing Guide*. He is also the co-founder and owner of Caltera School, a small jazz school in the near west suburbs. Mr. Patera is a summa cum laude graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music, where he studied contemporary writing and arranging and founded Berklee's student newspaper, *The Groove*. He has been nominated four times for the Golden Apple Teacher's Award, three times for the Disney American Teacher's Award, has received two Nobel Distinguished Educator awards, and is included in every "Who's Who of American Teachers" list since 2001.

As a performer, Mr. Patera has worked as a freelance drummer, bassist, and keyboard player. He has played with the Chicago-based funk/soul band BadCat, the Jeremy Callner jazz quartet, and currently leads his own quintet. He has also composed music for numerous independent films, theatrical productions, and multimedia projects.

**Karen Schulz-Harmon**

*Cello, chamber music coach*

Karen Schulz-Harmon, cellist, graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Masters of Music degree in Cello Performance, where she studied with Marc Johnson and other members of the Vermeer Quartet.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, she played with Opera Theatre St. Louis' Youth Opera and the St. Louis Philharmonic. She also performed in Europe with the Bayerisch Opera Theater in Germany in productions of *The Barber of Seville*, *Rigoletto* and *Tosca*. Ms. Schulz-Harmon is an avid chamber musician and member of the Chicago Trio, which performs regularly throughout the year. She also performs with the Chicago Philharmonic, Chicago Opera Theater and the Grace Chicago Consort. Ms. Schulz-Harmon is a member of the faculty at the Chicago Academy for the Arts where she teaches cello and coaches chamber music, The Musical Offering where she teaches cello and piano and the Chicago Youth Symphony where she coaches chamber music.