



# YOUTHJAZZ.US

Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc. The next generation.

**MEDIA CONTACT: CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, FOUNDER**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2024 KANSAS CITY AREA YOUTH JAZZ SEASON BEGINS IN APRIL: NEW TRIBUTE ENSEMBLE ADDED IN HONOR OF AHMAD ALAADEEN ADDED TO PROGRAM**

**Kansas City USA, Wednesday, February 14, 2024** - Kansas City Area Youth Jazz will conduct its annual auditions for fellowships on February 18 at BRC Audio Productions. Results of the auditions and assignment to ensembles will be announced in March. The spring and summer only program season runs during the months of April, May, June, and July. The program is scheduled to present a "Next Generation Showcase" in July at The Folly Theater and the last Sunday in July is the capstone album recording session in Studio A at BRC Audio Productions.

"We conduct rigorous auditions for Fellowships in February and announce the selections in March each year. Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings during our season of April, May, June, and July with no rehearsals on Labor Day or Fourth of July weekends," states Christopher Burnett, artistic director. "Youth Jazz Fellows perform a Showcase Concert in July and also perform paid performances in the greater KC area community. Commitment to attend all rehearsals and performances is required."

Those who pass the audition are awarded a Youth Jazz Fellowship. Fellowships are free merit-based scholarships and the program is based upon talent. Both, high school and college jazz musicians are eligible to participate in the program.

"We don't want any financial barriers to participation," Burnett states. "The Kansas City Area Youth Jazz program is a premiere program." Burnett says that Youth Jazz is comparable in quality to other major summer programs like Berklee and Interlochen but it's local and without the tuition cost considerations. "Youth Jazz is a professional music industry experience for our youngest generation of aspiring jazz artists," he concludes.

Burnett says that auditions will remain open beyond February 18 if needed to fill each ensemble with qualified candidates. "We never know who is going to sign up for auditions each season. We are prepared to have one vocal jazz ensemble and three instrumental jazz ensembles, but we can adapt to only one group if necessary"

Kansas City Area Youth Jazz is beginning its 6th Season. The program has released 5 commercial albums worldwide on the professional Kansas City area based, ARC Record Label.

**- MORE -**

NOTICE: Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Inc (aka Youth Jazz) is officially determined by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization under IRC Section 501(c)(3) with further Public Charity status allowing donors to deduct contributions they make to Youth Jazz under IRC Section 170.

Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc.

# SPONSORSHIP GUIDEBOOK 2024 SEASON

YOUTHJAZZ.US The Next Generation

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ENSEMBLE	TRACK TITLE	TRACK COMPOSER	TRACK ARRANGER	SOLOIST 1	SOLOIST 2	SOLOIST 3	SOLOIST 4	DURATION
2	BRADY	In My Solitude	Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington	Willie Thornton					
3	BRADY	Take The A-Train	Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington	Willie Thornton					
4	BRADY	Do Nothing 'Till You Hear From Me	Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington	Willie Thornton					
5									
6	CRAIN	The Changing Of The Guard	James Williams	Don Sickler					
7	CRAIN	The Perpetrator	Michael Philip Mossman	Michael Philip Mossman					
8	CRAIN	Infra-Rae	Hank Mobley	Don Sickler					
9									
10	WATSON	Yardbird Suite	Charlie Parker	David Aaberg					
11	WATSON	Marmaduke	Charlie Parker	Matt Otto					
12	WATSON	The Guardians	Ellen Rowe	Ellen Rowe					
13	WATSON	Red Cross	Charlie Parker	Greg Carroll & Bill McKamy					
14	WATSON	Five Dollar Bill	Nicolas Weaver	Nicolas Weaver					
15									

Add  more rows at the bottom





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# YOUTH JAZZ

## Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc.

Nonprofit Charity Entity 501(c)(3) Organization that includes Jazz Industry programs: (1) Artists Recording Collective, (2) Bird Boot Camp + Musical Salute and (3) Jazz Artistry Now

- Jazz music is universally recognized the world over as America's only uniquely original contribution to music and the arts.
- Jazz continues to impact all forms of popular music today, and it is also highly regarded the world over as serious art music.
- And yet, Jazz still remains fun and engaging for both listeners and performers if you know how it works.
- Jazz is learned by supplementing what is taught about music in a classroom or school.
- **Jazz is best learned by the generations interacting and more experienced master musicians passing on knowledge to newer artists.** Jazz music has to be deliberately studied and requires attainment of certain competencies from the musicians who wish to play it. Provided the right environment, **anyone can learn Jazz.**

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# CONTACT

Website portal is located online at <https://YouthJazz.us>

Youth Jazz Business Office: (913) 250-5141

Development Council Contact: (816) 734-0003

**Link: DONATIONS PORTAL**





# YOUTH JAZZ

## Alumnus Quote:

“Kansas City Area Youth Jazz offers a learning environment and curriculum that I haven’t found at other major music camps. I am prepared when I go back to school each fall because of how much I have grown over the Youth Jazz season. My family has moved out of the KC area so my last season was 2022 or I would have kept coming back until I graduated.”

~ **Carter Beucher**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), University of Tennessee (Jazz Studies)

## Alumnus Quote:

“Youth Jazz is a great program. And I think it’s important that all students with talent have access to the resources of this program. It is also very essential for the younger generation to learn from successful artists who can actually legitimately teach others. Jazz is high-level music that requires high-level study. It’s like your soul is speaking through your instrument.”

~ **Miles Clemons**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2020, 2022, 2023), Berklee College of Music (Jazz Studies)

## KANSAS CITY AREA YOUTH JAZZ

**APRIL . MAY . JUNE . JULY**

**CELEBRATING 5 SUCCESSFUL SEASONS!**

- A professional music industry experience
- Recorded 5 professional albums
- 70 Jazz students awarded fellowships
- Over 50 Jazz concerts in the community
- 85 Jazz clinics by professional teaching artists
- Synergy with school NAfME MEA programs



# YOUTH JAZZ

Many funding opportunities cater to the worthy needs of the underserved rural communities and underserved urban core communities within larger cities. This is great. However, the typical Kansas City Area Youth Jazz participant demographic is not exclusive to either of those categories, but is inclusive of almost every population element in the United States, and yet is still worthy as well.

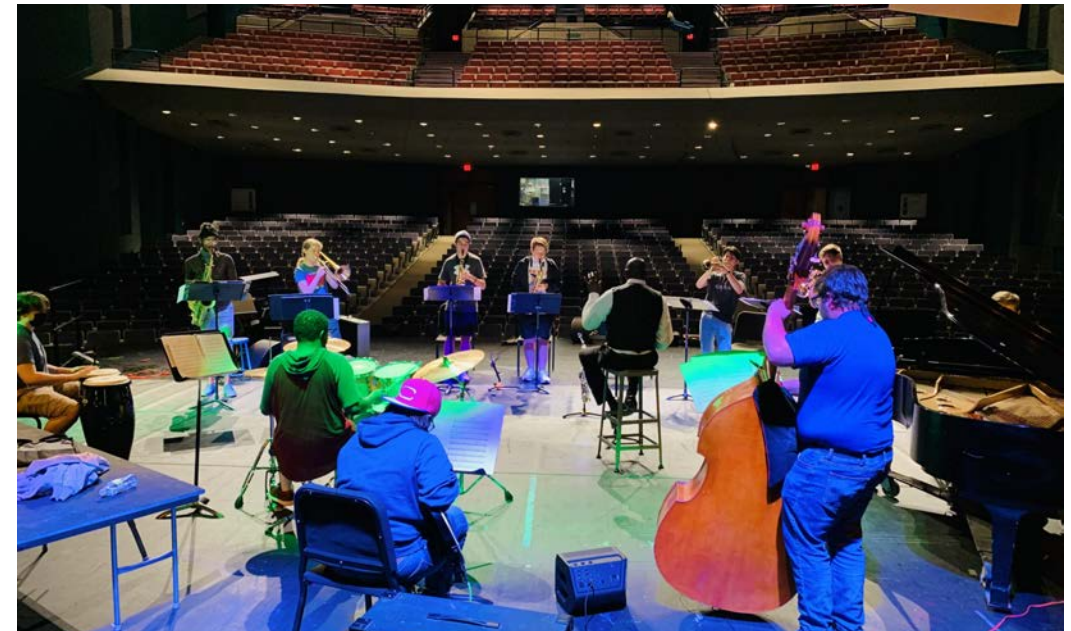
- To operate our studio program for four months, with the other year-around elements that make up our nonprofit charity organization, requires approximately \$50,000 to do all the bells and whistles that our program is capable of offering.

Link: [OUR SPONSORS](#)

- These programs elements range from: (1) the Youth Jazz Fellowship described above; (2) the Jazz Artistry Now digital magazine that affords students journalistic opportunities, (3) the Bird Boot Camp + Musical Salute that is a program element of Kansas City's annual city-wide tribute to the innovative icon, Charlie Parker; and, (4) the Artists Recording Collective, which is a professional record label and noted among the largest record labels in this region.
- Youth Jazz ancillary programming affords selected alumni fellows opportunities to perform jazz throughout the community for audiences that might not otherwise hear the music.

Link: [SCHEDULE A CONCERT](#)

- As a private performing arts organization and community mentorship program, Youth Jazz is able to provide a professional industry experience to high school and college students during the period of life when such decisions are typically considered and before actually entering higher educational study and the work force.



2021 Fellowship ensemble rehearsing at KCPS Paseo Academy

## Clinician Quote:

“Being *different makes us unique* in the way we approach teaching young artists. We try to make it authentic and real for the student to ensure growth during the season. When we dissect the music in the fashion that we do, it makes music come alive. People can see, taste, hear, and feel the music both as listeners and as players (musicians).”

~ **Rev. Willie Meyers Thornton**, public school music educator, active church pastor, professional musician, BMI composer.



Link: [OUR CLINICIANS](#)





# YOUTH JAZZ

## Alumnus Quote:

“Kansas City Area Youth Jazz gives us the resources and tools to be able to learn more specifics in what we want within the music. The Youth Jazz program model environment is needed because it continues the jazz art form through teaching. Having a place to meet up to be taught, and to help teach each other, as we are learning this music together helps keep the art form alive in total.”

~ **Brady Johnstone**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2022), University of Missouri-Kansas City (Jazz Studies)

## Alumnus Quote:

“Every Sunday that we get together for these rehearsals builds community among our generation. We’re all individually strong as musicians but putting us together and rehearsing us in the details musically as ensembles, along with teaching about doing business makes Youth Jazz very unique and important to the art form.”

~ **Logan Smoot**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2022, 2023), Ottawa University (Jazz Studies)



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Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc.

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# 2024 SEASON COMMUNITY

YOUTHJAZZ.US The Next Generation





# YOUTH JAZZ

## Advocate Quote:

“My personal observation of your Youth Jazz program is the advanced knowledge and performance skills that the high school participants acquire that sets them levels of magnitude ahead of their classmates when they enter university.”

~ **Darrel McKaig**, Engineer, former UMKC Conservatory trumpet major, community arts advocate.

Jazz music is an inherent part of the historic and cultural fabric of KC. The Kansas City Metropolitan Area is very diverse ethnically and contains a mixture of urban, suburban, and rural residents who participate in Youth Jazz.

Link: [FROM MR. B](#)

- This program is unique and based upon musical merit. It's open to high school and college students. It's free to preclude any possible financial barriers to student participation.
- There is no other program model like Kansas City Area Youth Jazz in the world that offers the programming parameters we do.

Link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas\\_City\\_metropolitan\\_area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas_City_metropolitan_area)

- The “next generation” of Jazz Artists who earn fellowships each season tangibly benefit as developing musicians, as next generation artists in the continuum of Jazz Music as an art form, as arts industry entrepreneurs, and as future community leaders simply by participating in a Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc. season.

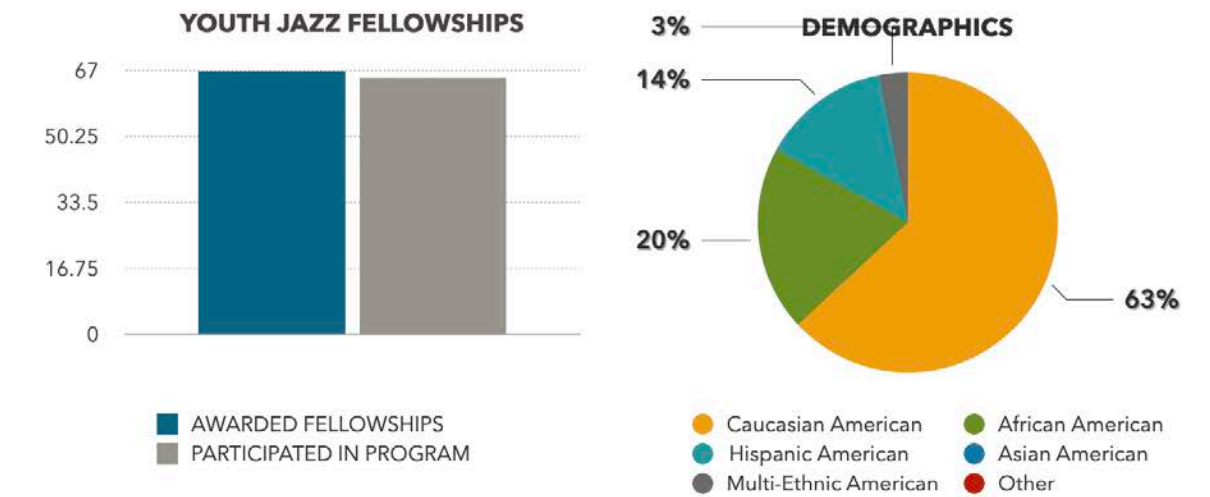
Link: [ABOUT YOUTH JAZZ](#)

## YOUTH JAZZ PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS



### DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN BY ETHNICITY

Fellowship Demographic	Awarded	Participated	Difference
Caucasian American	42	41	-1
African American	13	13	0
Hispanic American	9	9	0
Asian American	1	0	-1
Multi-Ethnic American	2	2	0
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-2</b>





# YOUTH JAZZ

## Sponsor Quote:

“These young musicians were absolutely incredible!  
Thank you so much for joining us at our annual meeting.”

~ **Mazuma Credit Union**, Youth Jazz performance sponsor.

## MEET THE TEAM

YOUTH JAZZ brings together a diverse range of individuals, organizations, and businesses to support our mission. We bring validated individual and collective professional experience to the jazz education and ensemble performance process as both artists and educators. It's a great program and fills an inherent void that naturally exists between the institutional learning environment and the actual real-life experience of working in the music industry.



**Christopher Burnett**, Youth Jazz founder, is a prominent Kansas City based saxophonist, bandleader, instructor, and raconteur. He operates **Artists Recording Collective**, a record label that has released dozens of albums by jazz musicians from around the world. He is an educator, arts business leader, and award-winning composer who began his extensive professional career with **military jazz bands** going pro after high school.



**Willie Thornton** is a professional musician and educator based in Kansas City. He has taught music for over twenty years and is currently the Vocal Music Director at the **Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts** where his students recently performed at **Carnegie Hall in NYC**. Rev. Thornton is an in-demand clinician and **conducts gospel music workshops and clinics around the country**. He is a music producer and recording studio owner. He has recently completed the mastering of his debut solo album.



**William T. Crain** currently serves as owner and head engineer at **BRC Audio Productions** and Program Director of the **Institute of Audio Engineering Arts** at BRC. Some of Will's recent engineering credits include Christopher Burnett's "Standards: Vol. 1" for the prestigious ARC record label, the last three albums for the Grammy-nominated **Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles**, and the **Kansas City Jazz Orchestra**. He is the recording engineer and producer of all Youth Jazz discography.



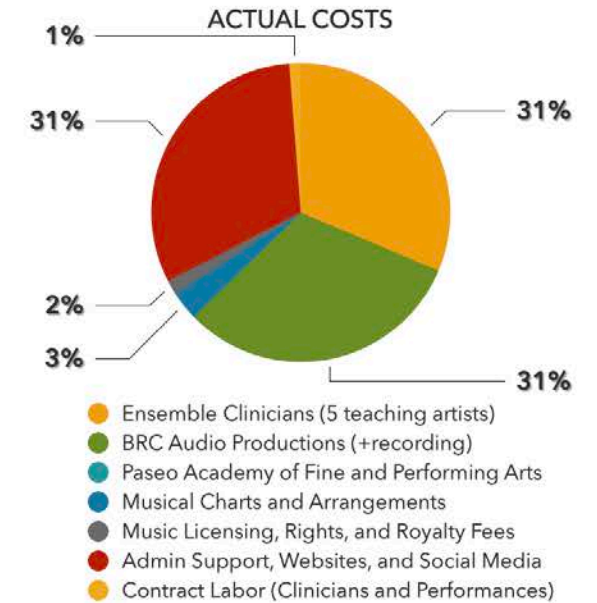
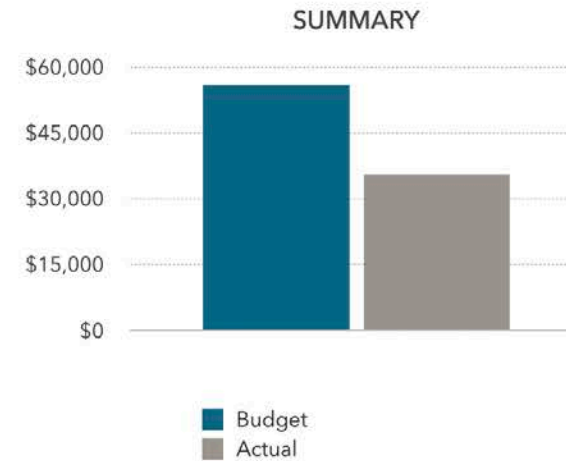
**David Cunningham** is a music educator and performing/recording artist from Kansas City, MO, where he serves as the director of bands and jazz studies at **Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts**, and associate director of the **Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship**. David can be seen frequently performing throughout the Midwest and has been featured on recordings with locally acclaimed Latin ensembles: **Trio Aztlan**, **Mariachi Estrella KC**, and **Maria the Mexican**. He has studied jazz trumpet with **Dr. Marshall Scott**, **Bennie Beach**, **Vince DiMartino**, and **Stan Kessler**.

## YOUTH JAZZ PROGRAM - FY2024 BUDGET



### APRIL . MAY . JUNE . JULY SEASON

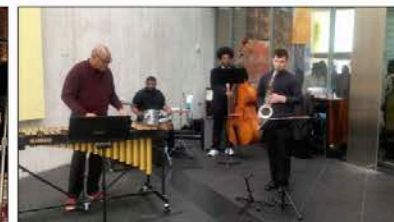
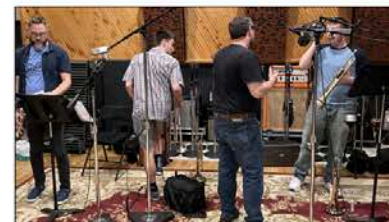
Description	Budget	Actual	Difference
Ensemble Clinicians (5 teaching artists)	\$20,000	\$10,000	<b>-\$10,000</b>
BRC Audio Productions (+recording)	\$16,000	\$10,000	<b>-\$6,000</b>
Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts	\$500	\$0	<b>-\$500</b>
Musical Charts and Arrangements	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Music Licensing, Rights, and Royalty Fees	\$1,000	\$500	<b>-\$500</b>
Admin Support, Websites, and Social Media	\$12,000	\$10,000	<b>-\$2,000</b>
Contract Labor (Clinicians and Performances)	\$400	\$400	\$0
Development and Fundraising Contractor	\$5,000	\$3,500	<b>-\$1,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,900</b>	<b>\$35,400</b>	<b>-\$20,500</b>



### FY2024 ENSEMBLE CLINICIANS

- Brady Ensemble (Vocal) - Rev. WM Thornton
- Crain Ensemble - Mr. Houston Smith + Dr. Todd Wilkinson
- Watson Ensemble - Mr. Gregory A. Carrol + Mr. David Cunningham
- Alaadeen Ensemble - Mr. Christopher Burnett

ABOUT US Link: <https://youthjazz.us/about/>





# YOUTH JAZZ

Kansas City Area Youth Jazz invites Guest Artists and Educators to come in as clinicians during the course of our preparations for the album recording sessions.

Youth Jazz is a program that takes advantage of its inherently diverse community of professionals within the greater Kansas City metropolitan area and beyond.

We also understand that truly **empowering the next generation** requires creating an environment that allows all generations to interact with one another in the types of meaningful contexts our program provides during each season.

Both applied and educational learning contexts are unique benefits to Youth Jazz. We place focus and emphasis on these specific areas:

- Preparing music to a high level for recording,
- performing concerts in the community, and
- serving as peer mentors are among the opportunities that FELLOWS are afforded.

Networking among peers and developing relationships with industry mentors are entrepreneur skills that are essential for building living-wage arts infrastructure and community to perpetuate that art form.

The following are among the artists and educators who have agreed to be contracted and scheduled for Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Clinics this season. Please note that this list is updated often.

Link: [OUR CLINICIANS](#)



PHOTO: Mr. Carroll, Guest Clinician, sitting in on vibraphone with a group of FELLOWS during a community performance.

Mr. Leon A. Brady – [website](#)

Dr. Arthur White – [website](#)

Mr. Joel Gordon – [website](#)

Ms. Judi Dietz – [website](#)

Prof. Dino Massa – [website](#)

Prof. Patrick Cornelius – [website](#)

Ms. Alyssa Murray – [website](#)

Prof. Clarence Smith – [website](#)

Prof. Jason Goudeau – [website](#)

Mr. B.J. Jansen – [website](#)

Dr. Dan Thomas – [website](#)

Mr. John Gardner – [website](#)

Mr. Doug Talley – [website](#)

Prof. David Valdez – [website](#)

Mr. Tate Berry – [website](#)

Dr. Jared Prost – [website](#)

Prof. Jim Mair – [website](#)

Ms. Jackie Meyers – [website](#)

Mr. Luis Portillo – [website](#)

Mr. Houston Smith – [website](#)

Mr. Morgan Faw – [website](#)

Dr. Mike Parkinson – [website](#)

Ms. Amber Underwood – [website](#)

Dr. Luke Johnson – [website](#)

Prof. Nate Nall – [website](#)

Dr. Todd Wilkinson – [website](#)

Mr. Jason Bata – [website](#)

Prof. Adam Larson – [website](#)

Dr. Ryan Heinlein – [website](#)

Mr. Pat Adams – [website](#)

Prof. Erica Lindsay – [website](#)

Ms. Sumi Tonooka – [website](#)

Prof. Jeff Siegel – [website](#)

Prof. Michael Jefry Stevens – [website](#)

Dr. David N. Vance – [website](#)

Prof. Stanton Kessler – [website](#)



# YOUTH JAZZ

## Advocate Quote:

“My personal observation of your **Youth Jazz program** is the advanced knowledge and performance skills that the high school participants acquire that sets them levels of magnitude ahead of their classmates when they enter university.”

~ **Darrel McKaig**, professional engineer, former UMKC conservatory of music trumpet major, community arts advocate.

**W**hen I was recently speaking with several leaders of firms that successfully help do fundraising for worthy arts nonprofit organizations like ours, I asked about how to energize tangible donor and sponsor support for the modest **Youth Jazz** annual budget.

Link: [BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#)

- We conduct rigorous auditions for Fellowships in February and announce the selections in March each year.
- Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings during our season of April, May, June, and July with no rehearsals on Labor Day or Fourth of July weekends.
- Youth Jazz Fellows perform a “Next Generation” Showcase Concert in July and also have paid performances in the greater KC area community.
- Commitment to attend all rehearsals and performances is a required aspect of earning and being awarded a Youth Jazz Fellowship.
- The season culminates in refining the Fellows Ensembles in the high-level applied performance of high-level jazz literature, recording an album of music by each annual cohort in a professional recording studio, that’s released worldwide on a professional record label.







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# YOUTH JAZZ

## Alumnus Quote:

“Kansas City Area Youth Jazz was a totally new experience for me in music. Singing with outstanding vocalists of my generation was lots of fun and recording an album was amazing.”

~ **Star Minter**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2023), Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts (Jazz Studies)

## Alumnus Quote:

“In my opinion, I believe that Youth Jazz enhances leadership skills by making you own what you do in all aspects of professional artistry and entrepreneurship. Not only in how you play, or how you’re coming to your own instrument, but how your part fits into the music itself and then how it fits in while playing within the ensemble context of a musical group preparing. It’s great at this.”

~ **Kenny Watson**, Kansas City Area Youth Jazz Fellowship (2022), Ottawa University (Jazz Studies)



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Kansas City Area Youth Jazz, Inc.

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# EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED

YOUTHJAZZ.US The Next Generation



# QUARTERLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIVING

BECOME A **PLATINUM** LEVEL SUPPORTER  
**\$500 EACH QUARTER (\$2,000 PER YEAR)**

BECOME A **GOLD** LEVEL SUPPORTER  
**\$250 EACH QUARTER (\$1,000 PER YEAR)**

BECOME A **SILVER** LEVEL SUPPORTER  
**\$100 EACH QUARTER (\$400 PER YEAR)**

BECOME A **BRONZE** LEVEL SUPPORTER  
**\$50 EACH QUARTER (\$200 PER YEAR)**

