

KHSDI 2014 Teaching Staff

Evan Hyde

Evan Hyde is a drummer, percussionist, and composer currently based out of Miami, Florida. Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Evan began studying percussion at age 11 under the tutelage of Michigan-based performers and educators Timothy Froncek, William Vits, and Don Raaymakers. By age 14, Evan had begun performing professionally as a freelance drummer in the West Michigan area as well as the greater Mid-West region. While a music student at Western Michigan University, Evan studied percussion with Judy Moonert, as well as jazz drum set with Keith Hall and jazz legend Billy Hart. Evan then began graduate studies at William Paterson University, where he studied with drummers Bill Goodwin and Kevin Norton, as well as with the late jazz piano legend Mulgrew Miller. Evan is currently continuing his graduate studies at University of Miami's Frost School of Music, and is currently studying jazz and composition with Grammy award-winning trumpeter/composer/bandleader Terence Blanchard as a fellow of the Henry Mancini Institute. Evan has co-lead a number of successful projects including a modern jazz piano trio called "Science Project", and a latin-jazz octet called "Mas Que Nada" who released their self-titled debut album in January 2012. As a student, a sideman, and as a bandleader, Evan has made appearances at Detroit International Jazz Festival, the Allen Room at Jazz @ Lincoln Center (New York, NY), the National Association of Music Education Conference (MENC), the Polyfolia Choral Festival (Normandy, France), the Elkhart Jazz Festival, the Latin Taste & Rhythms Festival (St. Joseph, MI), the Lansing JazzFest, the GRand Jazz Festival (Grand Rapids, MI), and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Evan has also served as adjunct music faculty at Grand Rapids Community College and Kellogg Community College. Evan has shared the stage with acts such as Donny McCaslin, Fred Hersch, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Bobby Watson, Jamey Haddad, Gene Perla's "Go Trio", and many others.

Jay Sawyer

Born in Grand Rapids, MI, Jay Sawyer has studied jazz drumming with several outstanding and well-respected jazz artists, including the great Billy Hart, Tim Froncek, Keith Hall and Dana Hall. Each nurtured his passion and skill for the art of jazz percussion. As a student at Western Michigan University, Jay performed with the well known WMU Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Nonet under the direction of Professors Trent Kynaston and Scott

Cowan. These groups toured extensively and participated in several well-known jazz festivals that include the Notre Dame, Elmhurst and Detroit Jazz Festivals. Jay continued his studies as Graduate Assistant to Dana Hall while at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There he got work with such artists as Chip McNeill, Chip Stephens, Jim Pugh, Tito Carillo, Glenn Wilson, Ron Bridgewater, Dana Hall and many others. Jay received his Bachelors of Music from Western Michigan University and his Masters of Music from The University of Illinois. He has performed or shared the stage with artists such as Stefon Harris, Donny McCaslin and many others. He has also performed at the Detroit and Chicago Jazz Festivals as well as many other prominent venues around the USA. Jay currently resides in New York City.

Dave Van Haren

Dave Van Haren was born in Montreal, Canada. He moved to the U.S. at a young age, and began taking drumset lessons during the third grade with a local teacher, Chris Stankee. Dave played throughout high school under the direction of John DeStefano and Glenn Williams, who taught Dave to appreciate and love music. But Dave went to Albion College to pursue Pre-Dentistry and a degree in Biology instead of studying music. While attending Albion, Dave continued to play music and was a member of the school's big band for all four years, however music was always viewed as a hobby to Dave. That all changed, however, and soon he began taking music classes at Grand Rapids Community College in 2011. In January 2013, Dave enrolled in the graduate program at WMU for jazz drum set performance under the direction of Keith Hall. Dave loves being apart of the WMU and Kalamazoo Community, it is such a great place to learn and play music!

Jordan Otto

Jordan Otto of Ann Arbor, MI has been playing drums since the age of 12. He first began playing Jazz in the public school system. He continued to do so throughout middle school and high school as well as playing in an entirely student-organized big band outside of school. Jordan went on to study Jazz in Michigan State University's program under the direction of bassist Rodney Whitaker. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in May, 2013 and has since participated in a 6-week tour through southern Africa organized by the US State Department with the Anthony Stanco Ensemble. Jordan plans to further his studies at Western Michigan University this fall with the one and only Keith Hall.

Steven Perry

Steven Perry is an upcoming drummer from the South Bend, Indiana area. He currently studies at Western Michigan University with Professor Keith Hall. In his time at WMU, Steven has traveled with Its Songsmith Collective group to New York City to play at The Jazz Gallery. While in New York, the group also recorded at the famous Systems II Studio. There are many drummers from whom he draws influences, but his major influences include: Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Philly Joe Jones, Bill Stewart, Jeff "Tain" Watts, and Max Roach.

Alex Snyder

A native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Alex Snyder has been studying music with Keith Hall for roughly six-and-a-half years now after completing his first year in the jazz studies program here at WMU. This past year, he had the opportunity to perform for several of the guest artists to come through the School of Music such as Edward Simon and Joe Lovano. He also received the "Most Improved Rhythm Section Member" award from the WMU jazz faculty this spring. Alex has been attending the KHSDI as a student since its second year running and is returning for his second year as part of the staff. Some of his favorite drummers include Vernel Fournier, James Gadson, Philly Joe Jones, Bernard Purdie, Roy Haynes and Questlove, among many others. Apart from jazz, he digs any music that is funky and swingin'. Besides studying music, Alex enjoys collecting records, studying psychology, appreciating nature, and observing visual art.

Eric Busch

Eric Busch recently finished his course work for a Bachelor's of Music in music therapy, and a minor in Psychology. Currently, he is beginning an internship in music therapy in the Allegan Intermediate School District at Hillside Learning and Behavior Center. After completion of his 900-hour internship, he will receive his degree and be eligible to take the test to become a board-certified music therapist. While in addition to the basic music core curriculum, and studying music therapy and psychology, Eric also studied classical percussion, jazz drum set, guitar, and piano. This is Eric's sixth consecutive KHSDI, and fifth on the staff. Eric also plays all over west Michigan in a popular blues band called Big Boss Blues.

Matt Smalligan

Originally from the Grand Rapids area, Matt took advantage of every musical opportunity in high school, including lessons with Keith Hall and regularly studying with Marc Townley and Max Colley III at Byron Center High School. He is currently going into his junior year in Western Michigan University's Jazz Studies program, and his fifth year of drum set studies with Keith Hall. This will be Matt's fifth year of camp, but his second year on staff. He is currently the drummer for The Shelagh Brown Band. Matt has also studied and played with musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Marcus Printup, Herlin Riley, Phil Palombi, Matthew Fries, and Peter Eldridge. This will be Matt's fifth year of camp, but his second year on staff. He loves everything about playing and teaching the drums and is very excited to continue in both areas on a professional level.

KHSDI 2014 Performing Staff

Benje Daneman-Trumpet-Week 1

Trumpeter, Benje Daneman's desire to connect at a personal level with his audience constantly directs his passionate approach as a musician, composer and music educator. As a musician, his strong and diverse performance history includes touring nationally with Doc Severinsen and his Big Band, performing with the world renowned Jose Limon Dance Ensemble, recording for Grammy nominated album "Elevation" (HMI Big Band), in addition to recent tours with his own ensemble at nationally renowned clubs such as Dakota Jazz Club (Minneapolis, MN) and Cezanne (Houston, TX). He is also a sought after clinician for colleges and high schools across the nation including McNally Smith College (St. Paul, MN), Concordia University (Lincoln, NE) and Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association. In addition to performing and educating, Benje has worked as a musical arranger, copyist and composer for such organizations and artists as Spark & Echo Arts, Roger Treece and Lutheran Music Missions. His passion for helping all levels of the musical community grow holistically has culminated in the formation and co-direction of the Kalamazoo Jazz & Creative Institute (<http://www.kjci.org>) with which he leads multiple programs and events. Benje has attended and holds degrees from Western Michigan University, The Henry Mancini Institute (Los Angeles, CA), and Manhattan School of Music (New York, NY). He currently lives in Kalamazoo, MI with his wife, jazz singer-songwriter Ashley Daneman and

two daughters, Rivi and Elise. For more information on Benje, visit his website: <http://www.benjedaneman.com>

Logan Thomas-Piano-Week 1

Logan Evan Thomas is a dynamic and innovative pianist/producer/entrepreneur residing in New York City. He has worked and studied with some of the biggest names in the industry. He has won multiple international awards not only as a solo pianist, but also as music composer/producer for film. He leads his own group "Logan Evan Thomas Turbulence", and is the founding member of the collective "Manner Effect" who's debut album "Abundance" made it on the 2012 GRAMMY ballot, and have been quoted as "The best new jazz-rock-R&B outfit to come along in quite some time." Logan is the President of Caverock Music Group, in which he heads a recording studio, performance venue, record label, publishing label, and music T.V network. In addition, Logan is a highly sought after music educator and clinician.

Jon Wegge-Bass-Week 1

Jon Wegge is an accomplished bassist performing a wide variety of music in the Houston area. Equally adept at jazz and pop/r&b, upon moving to Houston in 2013, Jon has made himself one of the areas top call bassists. Some of the artists that Jon has had the privilege of sharing the stage with include Kristine Mills, Tianna Hall, Dennis Dotson, Keith Hall, Andrew Rathbun, & Jesse Palter. Jon holds a bachelors degree from DePaul University ('99-'03) and a Masters degree from the Univeristy of Illinois ('05-'07) both in Jazz Studies.

Nich Mueller-Piano-Week 1

Pianist and vocalist Nich Mueller is a man of many talents. Since pursuing a professional career in the performing arts, he has received acclaim for composing, arranging, producing, conducting, educating, acting, graphic-design, and photography. Nich received a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Studies from Western Michigan University; during his formal education he studied under or interacted with great jazz musician and esteemed educators including Billy Hart, David Baker, Fred Hersch, Ed Simon, Darmon Meader, and Peter Eldridge, as well as the highly esteemed faculty at WMU. Throughout his career, he has been privileged enough to have performed alongside greats such as Donny McCaslin, Bob Mintzer, Kurt Elling, Roger Treece, Matt Hughes, and Phil Palombi; as well to have performed in venues and festivals such as Carnegie Hall, the Allen Room in Jazz at Lincoln

Center, the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, and Jazz Educators Network. In April 2011, Nich released his Downbeat Award winning debut album *All in a Day*, which features Nich as a singer-songwriter, pianist and vocalist. Nich has also been featured as a lead actor in productions at the highly acclaimed Barn Theatre in Augusta, MI, Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, and now Farmers Alley Theatre. Currently, Nich is the director of GCII at WMU, the partnering ensemble to the internationally acclaimed collegiate vocal jazz group, Gold Company.

Jon Ailabouni-Trumpet-Week 2

Trumpeter, jazz musician, and educator **Jon Ailabouni** is an adjunct faculty of music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he directs the Jazz Band, coaches jazz combos, and teaches trumpet and improvisation. Ailabouni received the Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he performed with numerous jazz greats including Fred Hersch, Paquito D’Rivera, and Kurt Elling. In the past six months, Jon has premiered original compositions as a part of two, large-scale collaborative projects: “In Search of America” with author Robert Wolf and “Highway 57” with dancer/choreographer Blake Nellis. Jon is thrilled to be back at the Keith Hall Summer Drum Intensive for a second year in a row!

David Morgan-Piano-Week 2

Jazz pianist David Morgan was born and raised in San Francisco, studying music at Cal State Northridge before transferring to the University of New Orleans; the first graduate of UNO's new Jazz Studies program, his tutors there included jazz legends Ellis Marsalis, Harold Battiste and Victor Goines. Upon graduating Morgan landed in New York, where in 1996 he recorded his debut LP [Comment](#). With bassist Sean Drabitt and drummer Jason Marsalis, he resurfaced in 1998 with [Hands of Time](#); [Live at the Blue Note](#) followed a year later.

Matt Hughes-Bass-Week 2

Originally from Kalamazoo MI, Matt Hughes studied and performed in numerous symphony orchestras and jazz ensembles in the Midwest. After receiving his BM from Michigan State University and his MM from Western Michigan University, he moved to New York City to tour and record with jazz great Betty Carter. Currently Hughes teaches double bass and jazz studies at Western Illinois and is finishing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Illinois.

Gene Knific-Piano-Week 2

Pianist, composer and arranger **Gene Knific** is the recipient of 7 Down Beat Student Music Awards. Gene studies at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music pursuing degrees in jazz performance and composition, where he studies with Shelly Berg, Martin Bejerano, Lansing McLoskey, and Terence Blanchard. Originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Knific studied throughout his high school career at Western Michigan University with distinguished professors including pianists Lori Sims, Fred Hersch and Tad Weed.

Knific has performed all over the world with an extensive and diverse repertoire. Recent notable concerts include performing in trio, quartet and quintets with Joe Lovano for the WMU Jazz Masters Series; Performances with the WJQ faculty quartet in Russia at The St. Petersburg Conservatory, and Jazz Philharmonic; Performances at The Copenhagen Opera House and Montmartre Jazzhus in 2012; the 2011 International Society of Bassists Convention in San Francisco, California; the 2011 and 2012 Amelia Island Jazz Festival, Florida; and at the 2009 Schlern International Music Festival in Italy. Knific is scheduled to appear at the Mozambique International Festival of Music in 2014, as well as the Elkhart Jazz Festival, and Fontana Chamber Arts Series.

Knific has been awarded several grants for writing projects and for study. These include a Knight Foundation grant for the production of a self-produced feature film; The Gilmore Foundation for study with composer Dave Rivello at The Eastman School; and for piano studies with Richard Cionco and Michael Rickman in Europe. An active composer in both jazz and chamber music settings, he recently had premieres performed by the combined four Stamps Foundation Distinguished Ensembles in Miami; a work for big band performed and recorded featuring guitarist/singer Steve Miller; and premieres and recordings of his Piano Trio and Piano Quintet. He will have a string quartet premiered in 2014 in Miami as well as a hybrid work for jazz and chamber ensemble for the Stamps Family Foundation. He recently was selected to have his Piano Quintet performed at the SCI Region V Conference. He has had his works rehearsed by Dave Douglas, Mark O'Connor and Terrence Blanchard, and had a work read by members of the Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by James Feddeck at The Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami. He co-leads an adventurous trio, The Science Project, dedicated to original works and those of the likes of Avishai Cohen and The

Bad Plus. Gene leads his own trio, and has also performed in trio/quartet settings with Kevin Mahogany, Roseanne Vitro, Kate Reid, and is the pianist of touring/recording ensemble, The Tom Knific Quartet.

Ashley Daneman-Vocals-Week 1 & 2

Ashley Daneman, is a jazz singer and songwriter who shares her heart and soul through a blend of jazz and modern folk music. Her songwriting has awarded her grants and opportunities in artist residencies such as Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead in Washington, DC and The Banff Centre's Jazz and Creative Workshop in Alberta, Canada. Ashley received her masters degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from Manhattan School of Music under the direction of Peter Eldridge, Kate McGarry, and Theo Bleckmann. She performs around the United States with her husband, trumpeter Benje Daneman, with whom she has two daughters. Ashley is also a co-director of the new Kalamazoo Jazz & Creative Institute and runs her own vocal coaching studio - Tiny Voice Box.

Sam Weber-Bass-Week 1 & 2

Sam Weber is a bassist, guitarist, composer, arranger, bandleader, transcriber, educator, producer, and connoisseur of quarter note durations. A native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Sam is an alumnus of Western Michigan University, earning both a BA in Jazz Studies (2010) and an MA in Music (2011). Sam relocated to New York City in 2012, where he currently performs full time, playing everything from jazz, hip hop, and rock to bluegrass and contemporary classical music.