

# Zachary D. Varner

Austin, TX

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## EDUCATION

- University of Texas**, Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), Jazz Performance 2015  
*Lecture Recital Document: Down the "Rabbit" Hole: A Musical Examination of Alto Saxophonist Johnny Hodges*
- University of Illinois**, Master of Music (MM), Jazz Performance 2012  
*Master's Thesis: Julian "Cannonball" Adderley in the late 1950's: An Examination of the Alto Saxophonist's Improvisational Development*
- Columbus State University**, Bachelor of Arts in Music (BA), Saxophone Performance 2005

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Eastside Music School, Austin, TX** 2018- Present  
Saxophone and Flute Instructor
- Austin Soundwaves (The Hispanic Alliance) Austin, TX** 2016-2018  
Woodwinds Instructor and Jazz Ensemble Director
- Austin School of Music, Austin, TX** 2015-2017  
Woodwinds Instructor (Saxophone, Flute and Clarinet)
- University of Texas, Austin, TX** 2012-2015  
Graduate Student Instructor of Applied Lessons, Music Theory and Jazz Ensembles
- Ken Stanton Music, Marietta, GA** 2006-2010  
Saxophone Instructor
- Cherokee County Schools, Canton, GA** 2006-2009  
Adjunct Saxophone Instructor, Chamber Music Coach (Saxophone Quartets)

## CLINICS, WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER CAMPS

<b>Colony High School Band Camp, Lewisville, TX</b> Saxophone Clinician	2018
<b>Sommergroove Music Camp, Knivsberg, Denmark</b> Saxophone Instructor, Jazz, Pop, Commercial Music Combo Coach, Lecturer	2017-2018
<b>University of Texas Summer Jazz Improvisation Camp, Austin, TX</b> Jazz Saxophone Instructor, Faculty Concerts and Masterclass	2013-2015
<b>In the Shed Jazz Camp, Austin, TX</b> Jazz Saxophone Instructor, Combo Coach, Lecturer in Jazz History	2014
<b>Jazz Composition Lecture Series</b> (Thompson Conference Center, University of Texas)	2013

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 Festival Showcases

The Zack Varner Quartet was been selected to perform at the renowned South by Southwest music festival, as well as the Uplift Jazz Festival. Both events will be held in March of 2019 in Austin, Texas.

### International Jazz Festivals

Performed as a featured artist in the summer of 2018 at the Santo Domingo, Copenhagen and Aarhus Jazz Festivals.

### Solo Album Release

Composed, produced, crowdfunded and self-released a full-length album of original compositions. Released in January of 2018, *Blues in the Nude* has received positive reviews from two acclaimed jazz critics.

### Recent Performance Highlights (*selected from performance experience list below*)

Performed in concert with Extreme Heat, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Austin Symphony, the Doc Watkins Orchestra, Jennifer Holliday, Joshua Redman, Maria Schneider, Laura Otero and Andre Hayward.

## HONORS, AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

President of the Longhorn Jazz Association (University of Texas)	2013-2014
Eleanor Alexander Stribling Award for Excellence in Jazz Studies (University of Texas)	2014
Co-Founder of the Student Initiated New Music Ensemble "TV Buddha" (University of Illinois)	2011
Fine Arts Fellowship (University of Illinois)	2010
Concerto Competition Winner (Columbus State University)	2004
International Association of Jazz Educators Festival Award (for study at an IAJE jazz camp)	2004
Outstanding Soloist Award (Downhome Jazz Festival, Dothan, AL)	2003
Student Advisory Council Representative (Columbus State University)	2001-2004

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

*(selected artists, ensembles and performances from 2000 to present)*

### **JAZZ, POP, ROCK, LATIN**

Austin Symphony Jazz Band, Austin TX	2014-Present
Tonic Big Band (Elephant Room Jazz Club, Monthly Residency)	2015-Present
Doc Watkins Orchestra, San Antonio, TX	2018-Present
Juliet Live Jazz Series, KUTX Radio, Austin, TX (Zack Varner Quartet)	2018-Present
Extreme Heat	2019
Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark (Zack Varner Quartet)	2018
Aarhus Jazz Festival, Aarhus, Denmark (Zack Varner Quartet)	2018
Santo Domingo Jazz Festival, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Zack Varner Quartet)	2018
Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Corpus Christi, TX (Lead Alto Saxophone)	2018
Lindyfest, Houston, TX (Brooks Prumo Orchestra)	2017, 2018
Sahara Swingtet, Austin, TX (Weekly Club Residency at the Sahara Lounge)	2015-2017
Austin Lindy Exchange, Austin, TX (Craig Gildner Big Band)	2016
Hot Rhythm Holiday, Austin, TX (Brooks Prumo Orchestra, Waller Creek Vipers)	2016
Harvest Moon Ball, Houston, TX Swing (Waller Creek Vipers)	2016
KUTX Live Radio Performance, Austin, TX (w/ Laura Otero)	2015
Laura Otero, Austin, TX (clarinet, soprano and alto saxophonist)	2014-2015
Castellanos Quartet, Austin, TX (Weekly Residency at "W" Hotel)	2013-2015
Lead Alto Saxophonist for the UT Jazz Orchestra (University of Texas)	2012-2014
Member of AIME Student Composers Performance Ensemble (University of Texas)	2012-2014
Longhorn Jazz Festival, Austin, TX (Joshua Redman and UTJO)	2014
Floyd Domino, Austin, TX (Western Swing)	2014
Longhorn Jazz Festival, Austin, TX (Maria Schneider and UTJO)	2013
Beto y Los Fairlanes (three performances)	2013
Jazz Education Network Conference, Louisville, KY (U of I Concert Jazz Band)	2012
Member of the Concert Jazz Band (University of Illinois)	2011-2012
Midwest Music Conference, Chicago, IL (University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band)	2011
Lead Alto Saxophonist for Jim Pugh's Jazz Repertoire Band (University of Illinois)	2010
Centennial Tribute to Johnny Mercer, Atlanta, GA (feat. Joe Gransden and Lizz Wright)	2009
Jerry Bergonzi (Georgia State University Jazz Band)	2009
Jungol, Atlanta, GA (Songwriter, Multi-Instrumentalist, Touring Band Member)	2005-2009
Midatlantic Music Conference, Charlotte, NC (Liquid Jungle Industry Showcase)	2006
Auburn Knights Jazz Orchestra, Auburn, AL (Lead Tenor Sax )	2002-2004

### **CHAMBER, SYMPHONIC, MUSICAL THEATER**

Austin Symphony, Austin, TX "Singin in the Rain"	2019
"Annie," TexArts Prodcutions, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 26 performances)	2019
Austin Symphony, Austin, TX (Sinatra Tribute Concert)	2018
"Smokey Joe's Café," TexArts Productions, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 15 performances)	2018
"In the Heights," ZACH Theater, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 36 performances)	2017
"Singin' in the Rain" ZACH Theater, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 35 performances)	2017
"The Drowsy Chaperone," University of Texas, Austin, TX (Reed 2, 14 performances)	2017
"Les Misérables," St. Andrews Episcopal School, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 10 performances)	2015

“Sophisticated Ladies,” ZACH Theater, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 30 performances)	2015
“The Wild Party,” University of Texas, Austin, TX (Reed1, 17 performances)	2015
“Chicago,” Half and Half Productions, Austin, TX (Reed 2, 15 performances)	2014
“Little Shop of Horrors,” Zilker Theater Productions, Austin, TX (Reed 1, 25 performances)	2013
TV Buddha, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, (Student-Initiated New Music Ensemble)	2010-2011
Columbus State University Saxophone Quartet, Columbus, GA	2001-2005
Soloist with the Columbus State University Orchestra, Columbus, GA	2004
LaGrange Symphony, LaGrange, GA	2002-2004
CBDNA Music Conference, Minneapolis-St Paul, MN (CSU Wind Ensemble)	2003
“The Three Penny Opera,” Columbus State University, Columbus, GA (Reed 2, 10 performances)	2002

## COMPOSING AND ARRANGING EXPERIENCE

### Composed and arranged music for:

The Zack Varner Quartet	2012-2018
The Sahara Swingtet	2015-2018
The Brooks Prumo Orchestra (swing band)	2017
The N.O.W. Jazz Orchestra (New Original Works)	2015
University of Texas Jazz Orchestra	2012-2014
A.I.M.E (Alternative Improvisation Music Ensemble)	2012-2014
Joshua Redman	2014
University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band	2011-2012
Jungol (Experimental Rock Ensemble)	2005-2009
Columbus State University Jazz Ensemble	2003-2005

## RELATED SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES

### Piano Proficiency

15+ years of experience in Jazz, Rock and Popular Styles

### Guitar Proficiency

20+ years of experience in Jazz, Rock, Folk, Bluegrass and Popular Styles

### Woodwind Doubling Proficiency

Flute and Clarinet, 10+ years of experience

### Audio Engineering

Proficient in Common DAW Software, 5+ years of experience

### Music Engraving

Expert in Finale Software, 15+ years of experience

### Fundraising

Completed the Launch and Release Crowdfunding Music Course and Administrated a Successful Kickstarter Campaign

## DISCOGRAPHY

<b><i>Blues in the Nude, Zack Varner, (Self-Released)</i></b>	2018
Bandleader, Composer, Producer, Alto and Tenor Saxophone	
<b><i>Jo James Band, Jo James (Self-Released)</i></b>	2018
Tenor Saxophone	
<b><i>Pass the Bounce, Brooks Prumo Orchestra (Self-Released)</i></b>	2017
Arranger	
<b><i>Frigga Feetless &amp; Friends, Kristoffer Gori Verdoner (Self-Released, Denmark)</i></b>	2015
Alto Saxophone	
<b><i>From Noche to Night, Laura Otero (Destiny Records)</i></b>	2015
Alto Saxophone and Clarinet	
<b><i>Cloverdale, Grizzly Adams Family (Self-Released)</i></b>	2015
Tenor Saxophone	
<b><i>Mine to Give, Brady Allen (Self-Released)</i></b>	2014
Alto and Tenor Saxophone	
<b><i>Places, Jungol (Self-Released)</i></b>	2009
Songwriter, Co-Producer, Saxophone, Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals	
<b><i>Tiny Heaven, Liquid Jungle (Self-Released)</i></b>	2007
Songwriter, Co-Producer, Saxophone, Guitar, Keyboards, Vocals	
<b><i>Journey, Columbus State University Wind Ensemble (Summit Recordings)</i></b>	2004
Alto Saxophone	
<b><i>Wind Legacy, Columbus State University Wind Ensemble (Summit Recordings)</i></b>	2003
Alto Saxophone	

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Borsody, Alex. "Jungol: *Tiny Heaven*." Review of *Tiny Heaven* by Jungol. *JamBase*, July 11, 2008.
- Ferris, Lindsey. "8 Austinites to catch at the 2019 SXSW Music Festival." *The Daily Texan*, March 8, 2019.
- "Jazz Story, Featuring Zack Varner." Radio Broadcast. *99.5: Radio Campus Tours*, January 23, 2018.
- Steinberger, Jeremy. "Zack Varner: *Blues in the Nude*." Review of *Blues in the Nude*, by Zack Varner. *The Austin Chronicle*, Aug. 24, 2018.
- Tucker, Mark S. "Liquid Jungle: *Tiny Heaven*." Review of *Tiny Heaven* by Jungol. *Folk and Acoustic Music Exchange*, 2008.
- Varner, Zack. "Casa de Teatro Presents: the Zack Varner Quartet." Interview by César Namnúm. *96.1 - Quisqueya FM*, July 5, 2018.
- Varner, Zack. "Santo Domingo Jazz Festival Presenta a Zack Varner." Interview by Fernando Rodriguez. *Jazz en Dominicana*, July 2, 2018.
- Wilson, Matt. "Young People, Big Dreams." *Cherokee Living Magazine*, 2007.
- Yanow, Scott. "Zack Varner: *Blues in the Nude*." Review of *Blues in the Nude*, by Zack Varner. *Los Angeles Jazz Scene*, July 2018.

## MASTERCLASSES, LESSONS AND WORKSHOPS

Chucho Valdes (University of Texas Masterclass)	2014
Joshua Redman (University of Texas Masterclasses)	2014
Maria Schneider (University of Texas Masterclasses)	2013
Jim Snidero (University of Illinois Masterclass)	2012
Jerry Bergonzi (Georgia State University Masterclass and Saxophone Lesson)	2010
Bob Reynolds (Georgia State University Masterclass and Saxophone Lesson)	2010
Dave Pietro (Jazz Combo Instruction, Saxophone Masterclass and Saxophone Lessons)	2004
University of Missouri-St.Louis Jazz Summer Camp (Jazz Combo and Saxophone Lessons)	2004
James Houlik (Columbus State University Masterclass)	2003
Kim Richmond (Columbus State University Masterclasses)	2003
Patrick Meighan (Columbus State University Masterclass)	2003
Bobby McFerrin (Columbus State University Masterclass)	2002
Wessell Anderson (Columbus State University Jazz Band Masterclass)	2002
Kenneth Fischer (University of Georgia Janfest Masterclass and Saxophone Lessons)	2000

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ASCAP

## REFERENCES

Available upon request