



ERIC B. BYRD

Director of Jazz Studies and Assistant Professor Applicant

eric@ericbyrd.com | 410.596.1367 | New Market, MD 21774

Accomplished academic, jazz pianist, bandleader, educator, and program leader with an extensive national and international performance record and more than 30 years of experience in jazz pedagogy, ensemble direction, curriculum development, and community engagement. Recognized for artistic and educational excellence through decades of touring and recording with the Eric Byrd Trio, including international diplomacy tours and performances at major venues.

SUMMARY

Demonstrated success leading collegiate jazz programs, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, designing undergraduate and graduate curricula, supervising faculty, and fostering inclusive and collaborative learning environments. Committed to building innovative, community-engaged, and culturally aware jazz programs that reflect the ARHU pillars of Transformative Thinking, Boundless Creativity, Expansive Empathy, and Meaningful Futures.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jazz Faculty and Ensemble Director

Gettysburg College Sunderman Conservatory

2021 – Present

- Directs jazz ensembles, coaches undergraduate combos, teaches jazz improvisational studio lessons, History of Jazz academic class and mentors emerging jazz artists.
- Programs Jazz Appreciation Month concerts for college and community

Jazz Faculty and Ensemble Director

Shenandoah University Conservatory

2021 – 2024

- Directed jazz ensembles, coached undergraduate combos, taught jazz improvisational studio lessons
- Advised students in jazz performance, arranging, improvisation, and recital preparation.
- Served on recital juries, curriculum committees, and departmental initiatives.

Jazz Faculty and Ensemble Director

Western Maryland College

1993 – 2013

- Taught jazz improvisational studio lessons
- Advised students in jazz performance, arranging, improvisation, and recital preparation.
- Served on recital juries, curriculum committees, performed with jazz faculty concerts and departmental initiatives.

Bachelor of Music (B.M.)

1993

Western Maryland College

- Concentration in Jazz Performance

Masters of Music (M.M.)

2001

Morgan State University

- Concentration in African American Music

EDUCATION



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NON-PROFIT

Frederick Jazz Society – Executive Creative Director and Founder Est. 2025

The FJS advocates, educates, presents and promotes Jazz in and around Frederick County, MD. The society has a performance, educational and scholarship track for middle school, high school and adult students. Activities include student and adult combos, speaker series, jam sessions, summer camp and gigs.

ARTIST

The Eric Byrd Trio – Pianist, Vocalist and Bandleader Est. 2001

- US State Department and Kennedy Center Jazz Ambassadorship
 - toured South America for 6 weeks to advance American Diplomacy
- Multiple International and National Tours and Performances
 - Dubai Music Festival
 - Montreux Jazz Festival
 - DC Jazz Festival
 - FestiJazz Bolivia Jazz Festival
 - Multiple performances at The Kennedy Center, Blues Alley, The Warner Theater, Keystone Korner and more

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Echoes Of Arrival – 2025
- Charlie Brown Live – 2021
- Twenty – 2021* (won Washington Area Music Award Jazz Record of the Year)
- Sacred Music Vol. 1: Saints Are Still Marching – 2017
- 21st Century Swing (Live) – 2013
- A Charlie Brown Christmas – 2009
- Triunity – 2004
- The Eric Byrd Trio – 2002

eric byrd
trio

JAZZ LEADERSHIP AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Created progressive improvisation and ensemble curriculum.
- Organized jazz festivals, guest artist residencies, and community outreach.
- Built partnerships with regional and national jazz organizations.
- Developed student-centered performance opportunities and recording projects.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Maryland State Arts Council Touring Artist
- National Reviews of Recordings
- State of Maryland Citation from Governor Hogan celebrating The Eric Byrd Trio's 20 years of "delighting audiences across the globe".
- Maryland State Arts Council Independent Artist Award Winner for Artistic Achievement
- Washington Area Music Award Winner

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

I am a member of the Jazz Educators Conference and a Grammy voter.

Search Committee
University of Maryland School of Music
College Park, MD

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the Director of Jazz Studies position at the University of Maryland School of Music. As a nationally and internationally recognized jazz pianist, bandleader, educator, and program builder with more than twenty-five years of professional experience, I am excited by the opportunity to lead a program rooted in artistic excellence, innovation, and community engagement. The goals and values of the School of Music—and the broader ARHU Strategic Plan—deeply resonate with my own philosophy as both an educator and an artist.

Throughout my career, I have balanced an active and visible performance profile with a commitment to developing the next generation of jazz musicians. As leader of the Eric Byrd Trio, I have toured internationally, collaborated with acclaimed artists, and served as a cultural ambassador through U.S. State Department-sponsored tours. These experiences have shaped my understanding of jazz not only as a musical practice but as a vehicle for cross-cultural connection, expressive freedom, and social impact. I bring this perspective to every classroom, rehearsal, and ensemble I lead.

My university teaching experience includes directing jazz ensembles, coaching graduate and undergraduate combos, teaching improvisation, jazz piano, jazz theory, music business, and courses on jazz history and culture. I have developed curricula grounded in transcription, stylistic fluency, rhythmic integrity, and creative identity formation. I have also supervised adjunct faculty, advised graduate students, served on recital and examination committees, and led recruitment initiatives that prioritize access, inclusion, and excellence. My leadership approach is collaborative, student-centered, and aligned with the ARHU pillars—particularly Transformative Thinking, Boundless Creativity, and Expansive Empathy.

The Director of Jazz Studies role at UMD excites me particularly because of its emphasis on program vision, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement. I have experience organizing jazz festivals, coordinating guest artist residencies, developing outreach partnerships, and building educational bridges between universities, public schools, and regional arts organizations. I am eager to contribute to UMD's reputation as a leader in the Mid-Atlantic arts ecosystem while expanding the visibility and impact of its jazz program locally, nationally, and internationally.

I have a former private piano student in your program and I have attended concerts by the Brad Mehldau Trio and the Brad Mehldau/Christian McBride duo; any academic program that includes artists of such renown is a program that is serious about the music and its continued development. I want to be a part of UMD's next chapter of educational development.

I would be honored to bring my experience as a performer, educator, mentor, and program leader to the University of Maryland School of Music. I am confident that my artistic accomplishments, pedagogical expertise, and commitment to student success align strongly with the needs of this position. Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to the continued growth and excellence of your Jazz Studies program.

Warm regards,

Eric Byrd