

Adolfo Mendonça

(Adolfo Carlos Fernandes de Mendonça Junior)

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Teaching experience

Adjunct Professor of Music

Knox College – Galesburg, IL, US (Jan/2023 to May/2023)

Classes taught:

MUS 100 Jazz Piano

MUS 101 Classical Piano

MUS 102 Applied Improvisation

MUS 178 Latin Music Workshop (Brazilian music)

MUS 175 Improvisation Workshop

TA – Instructor of Record (Music Education)

University of Iowa (Voxman School of Music) – Iowa City, IA, US (Jan/2022 to May/2023)

Classes taught:

EDTL 3120 Music Methods for the Classroom Teacher (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

Full-time Music Instructor

Guarulhos Municipal Conservatory – São Paulo, Brazil (2015-2018; 2020-2021)

A 60-year-old music conservatory with more than 1000 students. This was a permanent (lifetime) position, awarded after getting the 1st place in a demanding government-based recruitment process. A non-paid leave has been requested between Fall 2018 and Spring 2020 for pursuing a master's degree in the US. I helped with developing the curriculum for all the jazz-related course below.

Classes taught:

Jazz and popular piano

Classical piano

Music Theory

Jazz combo and improvisation

Jazz large ensemble (as an assistant conductor)

Jazz analysis and history (online, synchronous)
Jazz theory and arranging for small ensemble (online, synchronous)

Teaching Assistantship (Music Education)

Arizona State University (Herberger School of Music) – Tempe, AZ, US (2021)

Classes taught:

MME 110 - Music Methods for the Classroom Teacher (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

Graduate Assistantship

University of South Florida (School of Music) – Tampa, FL, US (2019-2020)

Role: Assisting USF music school staff and Distinguished Prof. Chuck Owen; managing the Center for Jazz Composition; Jazz Ensemble librarian and copyist

Jazz specialist and performer

EMIT – St. Petersburg, Tampa, FL, US (2020)

A non-profit arts-based organization. Role: performing venues in local concert halls; performing at the St. Petersburg Jazz Festival; teaching masterclasses in local colleges

Music Instructor

School of Rock – Tampa, FL, US (2019)

A nationally recognized music school based in rock music teaching. Role: Teaching pop and rock music, classical piano, keyboard; rock combo/ensemble group classes

Previous teaching experience (private studio and music schools):

Private Studio teaching (2000-2015)
Oficina de Música Pri Si La (2008-2015)
Escola Novos Caminhos (2011-2013)
Escola Simonian de Música (2007-2010)
EM&T Santos (2010-2011)

Roles: Serving more than 250 students aged 5-85, with lessons emphasizing creative thinking, fundamentals of arrangement and improvisation, jazz and functional harmony, music theory, jazz analysis and history, popular music aesthetics, ear training and music production skills. Has coached jazz and commercial music combos and assisted with jazz big band, and prepared students for admission on university degrees and recitals; encouraged interdisciplinary thinking, bringing life experience examples to music learning (and vice-versa).

Education

PhD in Music Education (ongoing)

University of Iowa (USA) * - ABD expected for May/2023

Topics of interest: international music students in the US well-being; improvisation teaching and learning; intercultural exchange in music education; jazz and Brazilian music pedagogy; empowerment, rights, and quality of life for international students and international musicians in the US; “othering” in jazz higher education

** 1st semester attended at Arizona State University (USA)*

Master of Music (Performance in Jazz Studies)

University of South Florida (USA) - May 2020

B.A in Music Education - Licenciatura em Educação Musical

Universidade Federal de São Carlos (Brazil) – December 2017

B.A in Social Communication

Universidade Católica de Santos (Brazil) – December 2003

Technical degree (High school of Arts simile) – Music (Classical Piano)

Escola Técnica de Música e Dança Ivanildo Rebouças (Brazil) – December 2010

Brazilian Music and popular music studies (non-degree)

Sao Paulo State of Music, formerly known as Centro Tom Jobim (Brazil) – July 2007

Main instructors and professors

Long-term professors and instructors

Chris Rottmayer (USF, jazz piano, 2018-2020)
Chuck Owen (USF, jazz arranging; jazz analysis, 2018-2020)
Mark Taylor (USF, jazz arranging, 2019)
Jack Wilkins (USF, improvisation and small ensemble, 2018-2020)
Tom Brantley (USF, jazz combo, 2018-2020)
James Suggs (USF, large jazz ensemble, 2018-2020)
Evan Tobias (ASU, qualitative research, 2021)
Jeff Libman (ASU, jazz pedagogy; jazz composition, 2021)
Mary Cohen (UI, Foundations in Music Education curriculum, 2022)
Jeremy Manternach (UI, Advanced Research in Music Education, 2022)
Adam Harry (UI, Psychology of Music, 2022)
Elizabeth Brown (UI, Seminar in Music Education, 2023)
Bob Cargill (UI, Humanities Public Scholarship Seminar, 2023)

Non-degree instructors (long and short term)

Lynne Arriale (jazz piano, US, 2016-2018)
Per Danielsson (jazz piano, US, 2018-2020)
Arrigo Barnabé (composition and music aesthetics, Brazil, 2005)
Julio Cesar Figueiredo (jazz harmony, Brazil, 2005-2006)
Nailor Proveta (Brazilian music, Brazil, 2005)
Roberto Sion (jazz improvisation, Brazil, 2005)

Additional institutional Education (non-degree):

Jazz Intensive, New York Jazz Academy, 2016
Pro-Tools 101, Arizona State University, 2021

Additional professional and academic experience

Highlighted performance achievements (US, Brazil and more)

Adolfo Mendonça Quartet - Concert at the **James Theater** (Iowa City, US, 2023)

Adolfo Mendonça trio performances in **Florida** at the Timucua (Orlando, US, 2020, 2023) and Studio@620 (St. Petersburg, US, 2020, 2022, 2023)

Concert at Millikin University (with Mark Tonelli) (US, 2022)

Adolfo Mendonca Quartet concerts at the Blue Note Sao Paulo (Brazil, 2020, 2021)

Adolfo Mendonca trio performance at JazzB (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2021)

Solo piano performance at Pizza Jazz Café (Mexico City, **Mexico**, 2020)

Performances in **France: Jazz à Vienne Festival** (Vienne), Fifa Women's World Cup Experience (Le Havre) and IMEP College of Music (Paris) with the USF Jazztet (France, 2019)

Performed at the **St. Petersburg Jazz Festival** with O Som do Jazz and Helios Orchestra feat. Alexis Cole (St. Petersburg, US, 2019, 2020)

Performed at the Sarasota Jazz Festival (Sarasota, US, 2020)

Performances at the Santos Jazz Festival as a leader (2019) and with Luiz Oliveira and friends (2018)

Pianist with O Som do Jazz (Tampa, US, 2019-2020) – including performances with grammy-winner artists Kenny Anderson and Jose Valentino Ruiz (Tampa, US, 2019)

Performances as a special guest with Guarulhos Youth Symphonic Orchestra's: "Rock in Concert" and "Jazz" (São Paulo, Brazil, 2018, 2021)

Full page feature at Creative Pinellas newspaper (Tampa, US, 2020)

Performance with Arbors' records artist La Lucha (Tampa, US, 2019)

Two albums released with Metal Jam (US, Germany and Brazil, 2004, 2007)

Two albums released with General Tequila, co-working with Piska (Brazil, 2006, 2007)

Recitals (jazz performances) at Faculdade Santa Marcelina (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019), Guarulhos City Conservatory (São Paulo, Brazil, 2018, 2019), ETMD Ivanildo Rebouças (Cubatão, Brazil, 2008, 2010, 2019), University of South Florida (Tampa, US, 2020) and Hillsborough College (Tampa, US, 2020)

Major Brazilian Pop Festivals: Skol Rock (São Paulo, Brazil, 1998, att. 4000), Guarana Antartica Gas Festival (São Paulo, Brazil, 2007, att. 10000), Cena Musical Independente (Araçatuba, Brazil, 2008), Virada Cultural Paulista (Caraguatatuba, Brazil, 2009, att 5000), Festival Joao Rock (Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, 2009, att. 42000)

Performances in Brazil with Arthur Maia (2004), Byafra (2015) and Pedro Tinello (2007-2013)

Opening act for Angra (Brazil, 2005)

Big band performances with Florida Jazz Express and Helios Orchestra (US, 2019, 2020) and Martim Afonso Jazz Big Band (Brazil, 2007, 2008)

Several performances at SESC Santos and SESC Bertioga with General Tequila and Kubo Magico (2009-2018)

Recordings with a leading role

Adolfo Mendonça – Brazilian Childhood (2022)

*featuring **Randy Brecker**, Jose Valentino Ruiz, Tammy Scheffer and other musicians from five continents*

Guest lectures, workshops and masterclasses taught

United States:

UW-Madison – masterclass (Wisconsin, US, 2023)

University of Northern Iowa – guest lecture (Iowa, US, 2023)

Millikin University – one-day residency with guest lectures, masterclass and concert (Illinois, US, 2022)

Cuesta College – guest lecture (California, US, 2021)

St. Petersburg College - masterclass (St. Petersburg, US, 2020)

Hillsborough College – masterclass and recital (Tampa, US, 2020)

Brazil:

Universidade de Sao Paulo – USP – guest lecture with graduate students (São Paulo, Brazil, 2021) – T.H.E. #2 Latin American universities

Universidade Estadual de Campinas – Unicamp – guest lecture (Campinas, Brazil, 2021) – T.H.E. #3 Latin American universities

Universidade Julio de Mesquita – Unesp – guest lecture (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019) – T.H.E. #9 Latin American universities

Universidade Estadual do Maringá – UEM – guest lecture (Maringá, Brazil, 2021) – T.H.E. #48 Latin American universities

Universidade Federal do Pará – UFPA – guest lecture and masterclass (Belém, Brazil, 2021) – T.H.E. #94 Latin American universities

Faculdade Santa Marcelina – FASM – masterclass (São Paulo, Brazil, 2018)

Faculdade Souza Lima Berklee – guest lecture and masterclass (São Paulo, Brazil, 2018)

São Paulo State School of Music – EMESP – masterclass (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019)

ETMD Ivanildo Rebouças Conducting Conference – masterclass (Cubatão, Brazil, 2020)

Escola de Música e Tecnologia – EM&T – recital (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019)

SESC Santos – workshop (Santos, Brazil, 2019)

Guarulhos City Conservatory – masterclass (São Paulo, Brazil, 2018)

ETMD Ivanildo Rebouças – masterclass (Cubatão, Brazil, 2018)

Performance and ensemble awards

3rd Place – Guiomar Novaes Piano Contest – Popular music piano (2021)

“Piano São Paulo Award”, as part of Semana Guiomar Novaes for the top-10 popular music pianists in the State of Sao Paulo (2021)

CNA National bands contest (commercial music) – 1st place awarded to General Tequila, selected between more than 200 applicants (Brazil, 2009)

Cena Musical Paulista award – General Tequila was selected between thousands of applicants (Brazil, 2008)

Finalist (3^o place) at II Festival de Música Popular do Centro Tom Jobim (2006)

Finalist at Festival de Música de São Vicente as a member of General Tequila (Brazil, 2008)

Big band conducting performances

Silver Swing Band – ArtsFest 2023 - scheduled (Iowa City, US, 2023)

Silver Swing Band – Coralville Center of Arts - scheduled (Iowa City, US, 2023)

Silver Swing Band – series of concerts scheduled for Spring 2023 (Iowa City, US, 2023)

Silver Swing Band Homecoming Concert at the University of Iowa (Iowa City, US, 2022)

Conductor – Silver Swing Band (facilitated by the University of Iowa) (2022)

Big Band Prata da Casa concert at Teatro Adamastor (Guarulhos, SP, 2021)

Assistant conductor - Big Band Prata da Casa – Conservatorio Municipal de Guarulhos (2021)

Highlighted academic research achievements

Improvisation clinic at the **New Directions** conference with “Benefits of improvisation learning for beginner musicians” (US, MI, 2023)

20-min oral presentation at the **New Directions** conference with “Benefits of improvisation learning for beginner musicians” (US, MI, 2023)

20-min oral presentation at the **Jazz Education Network (JEN)** national conference with “Benefits of improvisation learning for beginner musicians” (Orlando, US, FL, 2023)

Poster presentation at **National Association for Music Educators (NAFME) national conference** with “Challenges of lower-income countries international music students in the United States” (Washington DC, US, 2022)

Poster presentation at **International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers’ (ISJAC) Symposium**, with “An analysis of the musical mind of Lyle Mays” (Austin, TX, US, 2022)

Presentation at the Big Ten Academic Alliance Music Education Conference (Chicago, IL, US, 2022)

Full presentation at the 66th **Annual Symposium of the Society of Ethnomusicology** with “Comparisons between choro and jazz from the first half of the 20th Century” (US, 2021)

Full presentation at Documenting Jazz, with “An analysis of Lyle Mays’ Slink” (**University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, 2021) – T.H.E. #30 Global universities

Poster presentation at **ISJAC’s** Uncharted Territory with “Comparisons between choro and jazz from the first half of the 20th Century” (US, 2020)

Outstanding research award for “The Music of the Spheres of Johannes Kepler” (University of South Florida, 2020)

1st place of student recruitment process of Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos (2013)

Unpublished articles

Benefits of improvisation learning for beginner musicians (2022)

Challenges of international music students in the United States (2022)

Comparisons between choro and jazz from the first half of the 20th Century (co-author: Thiago Marconato) (2022)

The Music of the Spheres of Johannes Kepler (2020)

Highlighted scholarship awards

GPSCG Travel Award for the Jazz Education Network Conference (2022-2023)

Teaching assistantship at the University of Iowa (2022 Spring, 2022-2023)

Voxman School of Music Travel award and Music Education "Caplan Fund" for travelling to Big Ten, NAFME and JEN conferences (2022)

Voxman School of Music Travel awards for presenting at JEN, NAFME and the Big Ten Conferences (2022-2023)

Voxman School of Music Travel award and Music Education "Caplan Fund" for recording session of a studio album in Tampa, FL (2022)

Graduate Student Senate Travel Award for travelling to the poster presentation at **ISJAC's** Jazz Composers Symposium, with "An analysis of the musical mind of Lyle Mays" (Austin, TX, US, 2022)

Voxman School of Music Travel Award for travelling to the poster presentation at **ISJAC's** Jazz Composers Symposium, with "An analysis of the musical mind of Lyle Mays" (Austin, TX, US, 2022)

Teaching Assistantship at Arizona State University (2020)

Graduate Assistantship at University of South Florida (2019-2020)

Talent Grant Scholarship at University of South Florida (Spring 2019)

Latin American & Caribbean Scholarship (Spring 2019)

Fessler-Lord Scholarship at University of South Florida (Fall 2018)

Talent Grant Scholarship at University of South Florida (Fall 2018)

Latin American & Caribbean Scholarship (Fall 2018)

Additional notes

Finalist (campus interview) for tenure track position at the James Madison University (Jazz Piano, 2023)

Shortlisted (invitation for online interview) in searches for Assistant Professor tenure track positions at:

Elon University (Jazz, 2023)

Interlochen Center for the Arts (Jazz Piano instructor, non-tenure, 2023)

Western Michigan University (Jazz Piano, 2022)

Coastal Carolina University (Jazz and Commercial Music, 2022)

Colorado Mesa University (Piano and Commercial music, 2020)

Diablo Valley College (Commercial Music, 2023)

Shortlisted as "alternative performer in case of missing finalist" at the **Jacksonville Piano Competition 2022**

In 2020, during the pandemic, I created an online 12-week jazz intensive course for Brazilian musicians through the Guarulhos City Conservatory. The course has attracted students from several different areas of the country and received 100 applications. The lessons covered varied topics such as jazz arrangement, jazz improvisation and solo analysis, jazz history and appreciation, jazz composition and arranging analysis and, specially, intercultural debates.

The students also learned how to research and create presentations for lectures, masterclasses, or conferences. Their final project was presenting research about a topic of interest (such as discovering and discussing intersections between Brazilian music and jazz, analyzing the harmony in the music of the Yellowjackets, or analyzing and arranging a tune for an ensemble) and publish it on the internet. We have also received interviews with high-level recording artists, arrangers, and educators from 4 different continents, which included most notoriously the Grammy award winner **Russell Ferrante**. The participants were mostly students from top Latin American universities, researchers, music teachers (in the advanced class) and non-jazz college music students and amateur musicians (in the basic class). No matter if the pandemic was happening, we made the difference and found a way to bring high-level jazz teaching to Brazil, and the students have attended those courses free of charge.

Skills

Music performance (keyboards and synth, jazz piano, classical piano); jazz and popular music arranging for small and large ensemble

Music recording and music production: Cakewalk by Band Lab; Cakewalk Sonar; Avid Pro Tools; Sony Vegas; Sony Sound Forge; synthesizer and keyboard programming; sampling; sequencing; FX and DSP processing; audio editing; sampling; Notation software: Avid Sibelius - **AVID Pro-Tools** 101 course completed

Bilingual: Portuguese and English speaking, reading and writing; English speaking IELTS 7.5/9; English reading IELTS 8.5/9; English writing TOEFL 27/30