

Benjamin I. Diaz

Music Educator - Saxophonist

(772) 618-0419

benjaminivandiaz@hotmail.com

Education

2024-Present	Artist Diploma in Saxophone Performance (Candidate), Columbus State University Teaching Assistant To Dr. Joe Girard
2022-2024	Master of Music in Saxophone Performance, Columbus State University Teaching Assistant to Dr. Joe Girard
2021	Bachelor of Music Education, Florida State University

Academic Appointments

2022-Present	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University • <i>Technique lessons for saxophone majors</i> • <i>Private saxophone lessons for music minors</i> • <i>Administrative duties for studio</i>
2022	Director of Bands, Forest Glen Middle School, Coral Springs, FL • <i>Band courses: beginning band methods, advanced and symphonic band, jazz band, percussion ensemble and music appreciation</i> • <i>Music Performance Assessment</i> • <i>Solo and Ensemble</i> • <i>Organizing concerts</i>
2021	Music Education Internship, Driftwood Middle School, Hollywood, FL • <i>Shadowed Paul Morton during the fall semester</i> • <i>Ran after school rehearsals</i> • <i>Led classes of up to 70 students</i> • <i>Private band-instrument-methods while not on podium</i>
2018	Band Camp Woodwind Coach, South Fork High School, Stuart, FL • <i>Directed woodwind sectionals for marching band camp</i> • <i>Taught woodwind fundamentals</i> • <i>Taught marching band fundamentals</i>

Principal Mentors

Dr. Joe Girard	Professor of Saxophone, Columbus State University
Dr. Geoffrey Deibel	Professor of Saxophone, Florida State University
Dr. Steve Kelly	Professor of Music Education, Florida State University
Mr. Paul Morton	Director of Bands, Driftwood Middle School, Hollywood FL.

Areas of Special Interest

Band Methods - Beginner methods & fundamentals
Saxophone Performance - Concert/Contemporary
Latin American Music

Memberships

2023-Present	Georgia Music Educators Association
2021-Present	Florida Music Educators Association
2021-Present	Florida Bandmaster Association
2021-Present	National Association for Music Education
2017-Present	North American Saxophone Alliance
2017-2021	Phi Mu Alpha, Epsilon Iota Chapter, Florida State University

Awards, Scholarships and Honors

2024	Teaching Assistantship, Columbus State University
2022	Teaching Assistantship, Columbus State University
2020	Undergraduate Research Symposium, Musicology lecturer, Florida State University “Lord of the Rings, A Case Study On Effective Storytelling Through Film Scoring.”
2017	John Philip Sousa Award Winner
2017	Ft. Pierce Jazz and Blue Society Scholarship recipient
2016	Congressional Youth Award, Silver Medalist

Community Projects

2024	Chris Evan Hass - Adventure Awaits Saxophone Quartet Consortium
2023	Chris Evan Hass - Moonlit Village Saxophone Quartet Consortium
2023	Nelson Walker - An Unlikely Flock for Saxophone Duo Consortium
2023	Julien Berger - Sonata for Alto Saxophone Consortium
2022	Chris Evan Hass - Final Boss for saxophone Quartet Consortium
2021	Spanish translation on article by the Committee on the statues of Women for the North American Saxophone Alliance

Upcoming Solo and Notable Ensemble Performances

Past Solo and Notable Ensemble Performances

2024	Masters of Music Degree Recital, Columbus State University: Legacy Hall
2024	Masters of Music Project Lecture-Recital: Latinx Music for Saxophone, Columbus State: Studio Theater
2024	CSU Masterclass with the Akropolis Reed Quintet Masterclass on Itturalde's Suite Hellenique
2024	Blue Morpho Orchestra Tenor Saxophone Chair - Ravels's Bolero

2023	Principle Chair, Columbus State University Wind Ensemble
2023	CSU Masterclass with the Imani Winds on Dvorak's Quartet no. 12 "American"
2023	CSU Masterclass with the Sinta Quartet on Dvorak's Quartet no. 12 "American"
2023	CSU Masterclass with Adam Estes on Franck's Sonata in A Major
2021	Bachelor Degree Recital, Florida State University
2021	NASA region-6 Masterclass with Jonathan Helton on Desenclos' Prelude, Cadence et Finale
2019	Solo Recital, Florida State University
2019	Atlanta Sax Day masterclass with John Sampen on Schullhoff's Hot Sonata
2019	FSU Masterclass with Tyler Young on Muczynski's Sonata
2018	FSU Masterclass with Project Fusion Quartet on Piazzolla's Histoire du Tango

Work Experience

2023-2024	Summer Music Camps Night Counselor, Florida State University • <i>Provided caretaking to all campers during four weeks of camps</i> • <i>Facilitated guardianship for 54 out of 1000+ campers</i> • <i>Enforced camp policies</i> • <i>Collaborated with other night counselors to run wake-ups, lights-out calls and off campus night activities</i>
2021	Instrument Cleaner, All County Music, Ft Lauderdale, FL • <i>Washed whole brass instruments, buffed mouthpieces, removed markings from cases, and swabbed woodwinds</i> • <i>Ran the ultrasonic instrument bath</i> • <i>Prepped cases for renters</i>
2019	Tri-State Band Festival Day Counselor, Florida State University • <i>Rehearsal Assistance</i> • <i>Supervised Students during meal times and breaks</i>
2016-present	Saxophone Lessons • <i>Students learn fundamentals of music: reading music notation, rhythm, markings translation, Scales, theory, history and pedagogic repertoire</i> • <i>Saxophone specific technique and works</i> • <i>Solo and Ensemble</i> • <i>All-state Auditions</i> • <i>Collegiate Auditions</i>

Skills

Bilingual: English-Spanish
 Saxophone pedagogy
 Wind band pedagogy
 Band/orchestral conducting
 Finale music composition software
 Pyware 3D drill design software