

Jazz saxophonist, composer, and educator Christopher Madsen serves as Assistant Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jazz Program Director at Midwest Young Artists in Highwood, IL, and served as Coordinator of Jazz Studies at Northwestern University from 2008-2014. Madsen is an in-demand figure in the Chicago jazz world as a composer, performer, and pedagogue. He is a sought-after jazz clinician, often adjudicating and offering workshops to ensembles of all ages and levels. He is a *Rico Reed* clinician, member of the *Fulbright Specialist Program* roster, *Jazz Education Network* and the *National Educator's Association*, and the *National Association for Music Education*. Madsen serves on the Education Committee for the *Jazz Education Network* and has been featured in *Jazziz Magazine* (2005) and the *Jazz Spotlight* for *artsamerica.org* (2012). He has also contributed jazz articles to *The Instrumentalist* magazine and been interviewed on several radio broadcasts.

After graduating from DePaul University in Chicago with a B.M. in Jazz Studies and studying with the likes of Mark Colby and Dr. Bob Lark, Madsen was accepted into the jazz program at the Juilliard School in 2003. He spent three years in New York, performing with and writing for such jazz masters as Wynton Marsalis, Victor Goines, Loren Schoenberg, Wycliffe Gordon, Kenny Washington, Bobby Short, and many others. After graduating from Juilliard, Madsen relocated to Chicago in 2006 and has since been involved with much of the local talent, including the Chicago Jazz Orchestra, the Rob Parton, Bob Lark, Joe Clark, and Tom Matta Big Bands, the Mulligan Mosaics Big Band, the Ron Perrillo Quartet, and many others.

As a leader and sideman, Madsen's discography is extensive. He has released five albums as a leader since 2004 and can be heard as a player and composer on countless additional releases with

artists such as Michael Dease, Aaron Diehl, and Jeff Hamilton. His saxophone playing and arrangements can be found on the Loren Schoenberg Big Band's 2006 release "Black Butterfly" featuring the vocal stylings of jazz legend Barbara Lea.

Madsen is a published composer with Kendor Music, Inc., Walrus Music, and the UNC Jazz Press. He was commissioned by the Illinois Music Education Association to write the 2012 All-State Jazz piece, entitled "With Gratitude" and dedicated to his high school band director Don Shupe. He was honored to have his arrangement of the song "Never Let Me Go" recorded by Phil Woods and the DePaul Jazz Ensemble released in 2007 to rave reviews. He maintains a consistent compositional schedule writing for Chicago- and New York-based ensembles such as the Rob Parton Big Band, the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and the Jazz Museum in Harlem All-Stars. Madsen's compositions and arrangements have been featured by many local high school jazz ensembles at in-house concerts as well as local jazz festivals.

Madsen is an integral part of the Jazz Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is responsible for teaching Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Composition, Jazz History, Applied Jazz Saxophone, and ensemble direction. He serves as Jazz Program Director at Midwest Young Artists in Highwood, IL, directing ensembles and teaching classes in music theory, history, composition, and appreciation. He has performed and/or presented at the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Jazz Education Network conferences, and led groups which have performed at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State conference and the Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic. He has coached award-winning ensembles at New Trier, Libertyville, John Hersey, and Elk Grove High Schools in Illinois. Madsen currently resides in the Chicago area with his wife and son.