

# Kavyesh Kaviraj

Pianist | Composer | Arranger | Music Educator

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Minneapolis College, Minneapolis, MN — Adjunct Faculty**

AUG 2021 - PRESENT

Adjunct Faculty in the Music/Fine Arts Department

#### **Duties:**

- to teach all levels of piano and keyboard instruments
- specializing in contemporary music styles
- prepare students for recitals

### **University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN — Adjunct Faculty**

AUG 2021 - PRESENT

Adjunct Faculty in the Piano Department

#### **Duties:**

- to teach all levels of piano and keyboard instruments
- specializing in contemporary music styles
- prepare students for recitals

### **Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts, St. Paul, MN — Instructor**

SEP 2021 - PRESENT

Instructor in the Instrumental Department

#### **Duties:**

- to teach music fundamentals including music reading, ear training, theory & harmony and songwriting skills
- Lead ensembles, prep for concerts
- teach masterclasses

### **Walker | West Music Academy, St. Paul, MN — Instructor & Administrator**

JAN 2019 - PRESENT

Piano/Ensemble Instructor & Program Administrator

#### **Duties:**

- to teach all levels of piano and keyboard instruments
- prepare students for recitals
- teach masterclasses
- lead summer jazz intensive camps

## FACETS

Experienced educator and performer

Clear and concise communication ability

Experienced and relatable at the collegiate, high school level

At home with any age range from young to adult students

Extremely passionate about Arts Education

Experience with management, technology and organizational skill sets and keen to expand versatility

## LANGUAGES

English, Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil

- Organization and consultation on events and organization strategies

### **Minnesota Jazz Education, St. Paul, MN — Teaching Artist**

MAY 2017 - PRESENT

Teaching Artist (Experience Jazz 2019)/ Consulting Teacher

**Duties:**

- preparing students for public and recorded performances
- teaching basic ensemble functions
- studio performance techniques
- instruction in music theory, harmony and ear training.

### **McNally Smith College of Music, St. Paul, MN — Student Tutor**

MAY 2016 - DEC 2017

Student Peer Tutor

**Duties:**

- assist students of Music Theory, Ear Training, Harmony, Keyboard Studies with concepts and coursework.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA — M.M**

SEP 2019 - JUN 2020

Graduated with a master's degree in Contemporary Performance from the Berklee Global Jazz Institute

- awarded full-tuition grant
- Mentored by several luminary artists including Danilo Perez, Kenny Werner, Joe Lovano, John Pattitucci, Terri Lynne Carrington

### **Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL — B.M**

JAN 2016 - DEC 2018

Graduated *summa cum laude* from Columbia College Chicago

- receiving a bachelor's degree in Performance -
- concentrations in Contemporary, Urban & Popular Music and Jazz Studies.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES**

**Teaching Artist/Clinician** at the Panama Jazz Festival 2020, Twin Cities Jazz Fest 2020

Camp & Workshops at the national level: including Shell Lake Arts Camp in WI, Schubert Club (2022)

**TV and Radio commissions and features:** composing themes, features about teaching and performing experiences

**Works commissioned** for by ensembles nationally

**GRAMMY Preliminary Ballot** nomination for collaborative work on *MOMENTS*

## AWARDS

### **Artist-in-Residence, Global Music Initiative MacPhail School of Music**

JAN 2021 - AUG 2021

- The GMI Artist-in-Residence Program is an 8-month residency at MacPhail Center for Music to foster cultural change in our communities through passion and creativity in music.
- GMI believes that through supporting and investing in diverse voices challenges current ideas of music education pedagogy, selected recipients are provided artistic and educational opportunities to promote a culturally thriving tomorrow.

### **Professional Performances: Highlights**

#### **Local and national performance highlights include:**

Panama Jazz Festival

Twin Cities Jazz Festival

Selby Avenue Jazz Festival

Dakota Jazz Club

Crooners Jazz Club

Minnesota State Fair,

Vieux Carre, Icehouse MPLS

#### **Collaborations and Appearances with:**

David Sanchez

Roosevelt Collier

the Roy Hargrove Tribute (ft. Justin Robinson)

Babatunde Lea and Rhythm's Mama

Desdamona

Mississippi

Jay Young and the Lyric Factory

Zeitgeist

DeSean Jones

Omar AbdulKarim

### **College Performances: Highlights**

**The McNally Smith College of Music: New Jazz  
Ensemble**

at the Twin Cities Jazz Fest 2017

**The Columbia College Jazz Ensemble:**

ft. Russell Gunn, Bernard Purdie, Donny McCaslin

**Chicago Vox**

at New York Voices Festival, IL, 2018

Real Group Festival, IA, 2018

**Berklee Global Jazz Institute celebrates Charlie  
Parker**

1 week residencies at the Jazz Showcase, Chicago, IL  
in 2018 and 2019

**The Columbia College Fusion Ensemble**  
at MANIFEST 2018, 2019  
Deep Dish Music Festival 2019

at the Berklee Performance Center, 2019

**Panama Jazz Festival: David Sanchez, Berklee Global  
Jazz Ambassadors**  
In Panama City, Panama, 2020