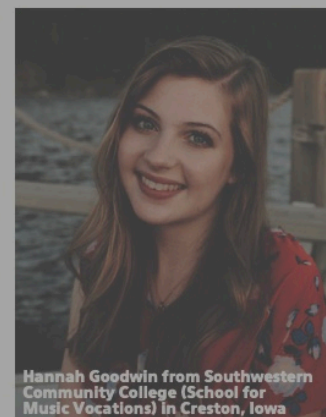


**Aron Stornaluolo** from  
North Carolina School of the Arts  
in Winston-Salem, North Carolina



**Hannah Goodwin** from Southwestern  
Community College (School for  
Music Vocations) in Creston, Iowa

for the Arts  
Alex Hahn  
Los Angeles, California

Lee Secard  
Los Angeles, California

### High School Honors Winner

**The Phathouse Band**  
Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse  
Gordon Goodwin  
Salt Lake City, Utah

### Miles Ahead Jazz Online Big Band

Stanford Jazz  
Michael Galisatus  
Stanford, California

### High School Honors Outstanding Performances

**Colburn Jazz Workshop Monday Night Band**  
Colburn Community School

### Undergraduate College Winner

**Makoto Ishizaka Jazz Orchestra**  
Berklee College of Music  
Greg Hopkins  
Boston, Massachusetts



**Mingus Quartet** from Rio Americano  
High School in Sacramento, California

### ASYNCHRONOUS LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

#### Junior High School Winner

**EDMS Jazz Band**  
Easterbrook Discovery School  
Nils Johnson  
San Jose, California

#### High School Winner

**Plano West Jazz Orchestra**  
Plano West Senior High School  
Preston Pierce  
Plano, Texas

#### High School Outstanding Performance

**Jazz Ensemble**  
Valley Christian High School  
Marcus Wolfe  
San Jose, California

#### Performing Arts High School Winner

**LACHSA Big Band**  
Los Angeles County High School

**UNLV**

School of  
MUSIC

Division of Jazz & Music  
**2021 DownBeat**

Large Jazz Ensemble  
Graduate College Co-Winner  
**UNLV Jazz Ensemble I**  
Dave Loeb & Nathan Tanouye

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangement-Vocal  
**Molly Redfield, "Moonglow"**  
Carlos Mata-Alvarez

Latin Group  
Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance  
**UNLV Latin Jazz Ensemble**  
Uli Geissendoerfer

Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist  
Graduate College Winner  
**Brian Lawrence**  
Baritone and Tenor Saxophones  
Adam Schroeder

Asynchronous Small Vocal Jazz Group  
Graduate College Outstanding Performance  
**UNLV Vocal Jazz Ensemble**  
Kimberly Snively  
\*Outstanding Soloist: **Gary Fowler**



UNLV Jazz Ensemble I



Vinnie Falcone Organ Quartet

Offering Undergraduate & Graduate Degrees

School

# ASYNCHRONOUS

The Vinny Falcone Organ Quartet from the University of Las Vegas



## Syncing Up

**DOWNBEAT HAS ADDED ASYNCHRONOUS** categories to its Student Music Awards this year, including Asynchronous Large Jazz Ensemble and Asynchronous Small Jazz Combo.

Brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the remote learning required to ensure the safety of students, faculty and others, asynchronous recording required student musicians to record their performances individually, at home, to a click track. Those videos are then arduously synced and mixed in post-production. At present, consumer technology can support real-time duo performances at best, and most don't have access to the computing power and the strong internet connection required to support those advances.

The inaugural Junior High School Asynchronous Large Jazz Ensemble winner is the EDMS Jazz Band from Easterbrook Discovery School in San José, California. Located roughly eight miles from Zoom headquarters in Silicon Valley, Easterbrook and its bandleader, Nils Johnson, opted for that so-ubiquitous-it-became-a-verb software platform as its main method of communication when distance learning started last April. SmartMusic, a web-based practice system, was utilized so students could rehearse at home "all by themselves in their garage, living room, bedroom—wherever they were," Johnson said.

"The kids adapted OK," he said when asked about how EDMS Jazz Band members handled remote learning and eventual asynchronous recording during the pandemic. "My jazz band students probably did better than some of my others, because they were already some of the top players in the school and were into it enough that they came into school an hour earlier than everyone else two days a week."

One of the numbers the band performed was Duke Ellington's "Harlem Airshaft." The arrangement itself had an intriguing journey, with scans of the original charts going from trumpeter and ex-Ellington band member Fred Berry to Don Keller Sr. (Johnson's late high school band director in seaside Aptos, California) to Don Keller Jr., former leader of the United States Naval Academy Band, to Johnson, who tweaked the arrangement and instrumentation for his students.

A silver lining from the global lockdown is that it allowed multiple Grammy-winning Los Angeles area-based big band leader Gordon Goodwin to work with High School Asynchronous Large Ensemble winners The Phathouse Band from Caleb Chapman's Soundhouse in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I had a couple of kids from Japan, about six or seven kids from Australia, a kid from the U.K. and kids from all over the mainland U.S.," Goodwin said. "Certainly, you lose the intimacy of connecting with people, like when we're in the same room playing music together. But I found that if I was really specific and kind of thought about reaching out through the internet to these kids, you can approximate that."

Modeling was a key to success, Goodwin explained, with no eating or multi-tasking on devices during video instruction sessions—mimicking classroom rules—and having "students sit up, centered in the camera, in the frame, so that I could see their faces and read their body languages," he said.

He also encouraged students to treat the solo recording with the same decorum and energy that they'd bring to a concert. "This is like you're on stage—not in your bedroom. So I need you to act accordingly," he instructed. "Act as if you're sitting—and moving along—



Makoto Ishizaka from the Berklee College of Music in Boston

with your friends in the band."

The flip side to not being able to perform with bandmates is the ability for one's playing to be heard individually. "Once they send the audio that they've recorded, I can hear every detail in a nuanced way that I couldn't in a band room, where a kid can hide a little bit if he just can't play a little passage as well," Goodwin said.

Bassist Makoto Ishizaka from the Berklee College of Music is a five-tool musician whose Jazz Orchestra was the Undergraduate College Asynchronous Large Jazz Ensemble winner. The composer, arranger, bandleader and instrumentalist added mixing and mastering of asynchronous video to his arsenal. "That was all his work," said Greg Hopkins, Ishizaka's composition teacher.

At the Graduate College level, members of the Asynchronous Small Jazz Combo-winning Vinny Falcone Organ Quartet from the University of Las Vegas had to delve into self-reliance and interpersonal communication during lockdown. They arranged, rehearsed and recorded their pieces remotely.

"They really did a lot more talk-through since they weren't able to physically be able to play with one another," said Adam Schroeder, UNLV's assistant director, Division of Jazz and Commercial Music, when asked about the group's remote recording. "Normally they could just experience things as an ensemble. They were forced to deal with it 100 percent on their own and feel all of their feelings that came through it. It's an unteachable thing. But what came out musically is a better representation of who they are as a musician, as a person, as an artist and as a future community member." —Yoshi Kato