

Ulysses Owens Jr.

Drummer. Educator. Thought Leader

A drummer who “take[s] a back seat to no one” (The New York Times), performer, producer and educator, Ulysses Owens Jr. goes the limit in the jazz world and beyond. Claiming four successful albums of his own (It’s Time for U, Unanimous, Onward & Upward, and Falling Forward.) Owens has also gained special attention for his performances on the GRAMMY award-winning albums Dedicated to You (Kurt Elling) The Good Feeling (Christian McBride Big Band.) GRAMMY award-nominated albums; Giant Steps,” and Countdown (Joey Alexander) Out Here, Live at The Village Vanguard (Christian McBride Trio) and most recently, Nat King Cole, and Me (Gregory Porter.)



Owens’ most recent album, “Songs of Freedom,” was released on the Resilience Music Alliance label, and selected by JAZZIZ Magazine as “One of 10 Jazz albums to listen to,” in March 2019, and also listed as one of the “Best Albums of 2019 “by Rolling Stone Magazine.

He is the creator of his online jazz drum video course, “Finding Your Beat,” with Open Studio Network and co-creator of the, “Art of Swing” course with Reuben Rogers. His first instructional book, “Jazz Brushes for the Modern Drummer: An Essential Guide to the Art of Keeping Time,” has been published and distributed by Hal Leonard as of May 2020. His second book “The Musicians Career Guide: Turning Your Talent into Sustained Success,” will be released by Skyhorse Publishing, and distributed by Simon and Schuster on March 2, 2021.

Owens also remains tightly connected to his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida where his family founded Don’t Miss a Beat, Inc., a non-profit organization empowering young people to dream big through a blend of musical, artistic, academic, and civic engagement programming. As DMAB Artistic Director, Owens creates programs for over 500 children annually.

He recently was the recipient of the “Robert Arleigh White Advocacy Award” by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in September, 2020 for their 44th Annual Arts Award Ceremony. He also serves on the Board of Directors at The Florida Theatre, and The ETHEL Foundation. He is also the Artistic Educator in Residence,” at Savannah Music Festival Jazz Academy and the “Jackie Cornelius Artist in Residence” at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts for their 2020-21 school year.

Ulysses was asked by Wynton Marsalis and Dr. Aaron Flagg to fulfill the role of Small Ensemble Director at The Juilliard School and has been part of the faculty for six years. As an advocate for diversity in the Arts and Educational sector, he is also a member of the newly formed EDIB Taskforce (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging) at The Juilliard School for the 2020-21 School Year; a NAACP Image Award Nominating Committee Member, and a Grammy Award Voting Member.

To expand his knowledge, and entrepreneurial understanding, Ulysses is currently pursuing his M.A. degree in "Creative Business Leadership," at Savannah College of Art and Design, and slated to graduate in Spring 2022.

Ulysses remains consistently in demand for new projects, remaining one of the most sought-after drummers, educators and thought leaders of his generation. Yet what matters to him consistently is giving back and continuing to be grateful for a new day to make a difference in the lives of others.

Peter Goriki

Apogee

Peter a senior violinist, is a member of the Douglas Anderson Chamber Orchestra. Of his composition, *Apogee*, Peter says "I've always had a great interest in the night sky and especially the moon because of its understated tranquility. When the moon approaches its furthest point from the earth, it has reached what is known as the apogee. I attempted to capture the vast beauty of this seemingly meaningless moment through my work, and I hope that you find yourself transported by the capricious nature of the music in a way similar to the nature of the universe itself."

Christopher Chiarotti

Sonata For Strings "Solo de Giorno" Opus no 2

Christopher, a senior violinist and pianist, is a member of the Douglas Anderson Chamber Orchestra. Of his piece, Christopher says: "I've been spending a lot of time studying works of Mozart, Beethoven and Mendelssohn as of lately, as I think of those composers as the pioneers, transitioning into romanticism. They were my main inspiration for my Sonata For Strings "Solo de Giorno" Opus no.2.

The sonata for strings started as a compositional exercise, specifically the first 4 bar phrase, as a way to test my abilities during a time when I was studying the perfect and symmetrical nature of music from the classical era. After the first phrase had been constructed, motifs and counter melodies began to pop into my head, and I decided to continue and finish the work. What started as an emulation became a way to bridge the gap between the perfected nature of classical music, and the film-score nature that my other works tend to capture."