

RICKI RIZZO

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EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF MUSIC PERFORMANCE

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI | anticipated 2025

Area of Study: Jazz Vocal Performance

Private Lesson Instructor: Atla DeChamplain | 2022 - 2025

GPA: 3.72

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Lynbrook Senior High School, Lynbrook, NY | 2021

FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Performed two consecutive years as a member of the University of Rhode Island Jazz Collective.

- August 3rd-4th, 2024
- August 4th-6th, 2023
 - Selections Performed Include:
 - I Remember You as done by Jazzmeia Horn
 - Never Will I Marry as done by Nancy Wilson
 - Una Manana - Clare Fischer
 - Azúcar - Eddie Palmieri
 - Sunny - Bobby Hebb

LITCHFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL

Performed with the top combo from the Litchfield Jazz Camp and opened for renown female jazz saxophonist, Alexa Tarantino.

- July 26th 2024
 - Selections Performed Include:
 - Doc Breath - Aidan Slate
 - The Look of Love - Burt Bacharach
 - Firm Roots - Cedar Walton

BOSTON GLOBE REVIEW

Horn's presence seemed to surprise the University of Rhode Island Jazz Collective, which had borrowed her arrangement of "I Remember You" — fast, slippery, and like a constant shifting of pieces — while Ricki Rizzo's vocals were clean, controlled, and immaculate.

- Marc Hirsh, Boston Globe, 2024.

WORK EXPERIENCE

THE RIZZO PROJECT

Bandleader & Founder | 2023 - present

- Coordinated performances and events.
- Currently holds a residency at The Helmway, Middletown RI.
- Experience performing at popular venues up and down the east coast
 - Rizzo has also been hired to perform at Wedding Receptions and Cocktail hours in Rhode Island, Connecticut, & New York.

LITCHFIELD JAZZ CAMP, LITCHFIELD CT

June 2024 - present

Served as a Resident Assistant (RA) and participated in masterclasses and ensemble rehearsals with esteemed professionals, including:

Don Braden, Albert Rivera, Nicole Zuraitis, Matt Wilson, Mike DiRubbo, Zaccai Curtis, and Paul Bollenback.

CONCERT HALL STAFF

URI Music Department | 2024 - present

The position includes various responsibilities, such as sound engineering, audio production, box office management, live audio coordination, and stage operations. Has recently assisted in managing the box office and operating the live video equipment for the 9th Annual URI Guitar & Mandolin Festival.

RESTAURANT STAFF

Rachel's Cafe | 2022-present

Waitressing, Hostessing, and carry-out experience.

MASTERCLASSES

- Daily Masterclass @ Litchfield Jazz Camp | July 2024
 - Don Braden
 - Nicole Zuraitis
 - Zaccai Curtis
 - Jen Allen
 - Albert Rivera
- Carl Allen with the URI Big Band | March 2024
- Ayn Inserto with the URI Big Band | March 2024
- Jen Allen with the URI Big Band | March 2023

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

- Andrew Wilcox | Jazz Piano | 2024 - present
- Kyle Forsthoff | Jazz Vibraphone | 2024 - present
- Rene De la Garza | Classical Voice | 2021 - 2022
- Lynbrook Public Schools | Classical Violin | 2010 - 2021
- Lynbrook Public Schools | Classical Percussion | 2011-2021

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

URI VOCAL JAZZ CHOIR | 2022 - PRESENT

A founding member of *In The Pocket* at the University of Rhode Island, directed by Professor Atla DeChamplain. The group has explored various genres, including bebop, hard bop, and vocalese, while also engaging in workshops focused on improvisational techniques.

URI STANDARDS COMBO | 2023 - PRESENT

Under the direction of Dave Zinno, performed as a member of the horn section. Enhanced skills in improvisation, as well as understanding of complex melodies and harmonies.

- Additionally, had the privilege of performing at various venues outside of campus, including the Pumphouse Music Works.

URI BIG BAND | 2022-2024

Performed a selection of standards from the great American song book as well as a selection of funk and contemporary pieces. Attended workshops and masterclasses that expanded skillsets as musicians.

Hosted several concerts featuring guest artists such as:

- Voices in Jazz: featuring the compositions/arrangements of Women in Jazz
 - Ayn Inserto | March 2024
 - Jen Allen | March 2023
- World Premier of "8 Years" - Haneef Nelson | April 2024
- URI Jazz Faculty with:
 - Carl Allen | March, 2024
 - Ray Vega | April, 2023
- A Soulful Holiday Celebration - Dr. Alton Merrell

Full Repertoire List Available upon Request

URI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | 2023

Active member of the URI Symphony Orchestra for one full year. During the spring semester, held the position of second chair in the first violin section before transitioning to assist the percussion section in the fall semester.

World Premier Performances:

- Concerto for Guitar and Chamber Ensemble - José Mora-Jiménez | April 2023
- "Suite Dreams" (Sueños) for Orchestra - Juan Guerra Gonzales | October 2023

URI AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ COMBO | 2023 - 2024

Under the direction of Grammy Award winner Zaccai Curtis, the ensemble explored Latin roots and rhythms through the works of musicians like Eddie Palmieri and Mongo Santamaria.

- Transcribed "Una Mañana" by Clare Fischer for a Latin ensemble, receiving valuable guidance from Zaccai during the process.

OTHER NOTABLE PERFORMANCES:

- New London Big Band | 2024
- The Red Door PVD | 2023-2024
- Ou La La Cafe & Lounge | 2024
- The General Stanton Inn | 2024
- Pump House Music Works, Wakefield RI | 2022-2024
- Ricki Rizzo Jazz Voice Recital | 2024
- Wyatt Crosby Jazz Bass Recital | 2024
- Jonathan Cabral Jazz Guitar Recital | 2024
- Fernando Marzan Graduate Jazz Saxophone Recital | 2024
- Nathan De Angelis Graduate Composition Recital | 2022
- University of Rhode Island Concert Choir | 2021-2022
- University of Rhode Island Composers Concert:
 - Spring Stroll - Maddy Wood | 2024
 - When Your Arms Were Around Me - Louis Shriber | 2023
- University of Rhode Island Nursing Department Christmas Party | 2023
- NAFME All-Eastern Conference | 2021
- NYSSMA All-State Conference | 2019-2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

- WARD ABUSAMRA SCHOLARSHIP | 2023-2024
- WR & AW FERRANTE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP | 2021-2022
- ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP | 2021-2025
- PRESIDENT OF THE LYNBROOK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY | 2020-2021

REFERENCES

ATLA DECHAMPLAIN

University of Rhode Island
Assistant Teaching Professor of Amplified Voice

Private Voice Instructor
Studies with Atla since Fall 2022

Phone: (860) 335-7425
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DAVE ZINNO

University of Rhode Island
Artist/Teacher in Jazz String Bass

Combo Director and Professor for Jazz Theory
Classes

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DR. EMMETT GOODS

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Associate Professor of Music/Teacher in
Jazz Trombone

Director of URI Big Band

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PAULA TAVIERA

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