

U of T Jazz/Faculty of Music: AREDI Actions 2018 - present

Recent hires of part-time faculty to the U of T Jazz Area have included female and POC alumni including:

- Hannah Barstow (piano and voice)
- Tara Davidson (saxophone and Improvisation)
- Tara Kannangara (trumpet and voice)
- Laura Swankey (voice)
- Jacqueline Teh (vocal ensemble)

2018-20:

The U of T Jazz Outreach Student Ensemble, a mixed gender/mixed race ensemble under the direction of TA Meghan Gilhespy, offered free workshops and performed concerts to students at:

Ontario Music Educators Conference, Hamilton ON, Nov 2, 2018

Rosedale Heights Secondary School, Toronto ON, Jan 31, 2019

Hawthorne Village Elementary School, Milton ON, March 5, 2020

March 13, 2020:

Workshop for the Jazz Area with U of T Diversity Office and Sexual Violence was cancelled due to COVID pandemic. Rescheduling is planned for the 2020-21 academic year.

March 31, 2020:

U of T Music Faculty participated in Sexual and Gender presentation to Faculty Council.

August 2020:

Formation of Faculty of Music Working Group on Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (AREDI). Jazz Area faculty included in this working group's membership are Jazz Area Chair Mike Murley and Tara Kannangara.

August 2020:

Formation of Jazz Area Working Group on Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (AREDI). Members of this group are Associate Dean Ryan McClelland, Jazz Area Chair Mike Murley, Performance Office Administrator Eddy Aitken, SL2 faculty Andrew Downing, SL1 faculty Jacqueline Teh, DMA student representative Meghan Gilhespy and undergraduate student representative Jennifer Co-Yee Lo.

September 2020:

Establishment of a student-run committee to oversee the booking and management of the Ken Page Masterclass series. This committee will be chaired by DMA Sam Little in a TA capacity with administrative guidance/supervision from Prof Chase Sanborn. The chair of this committee will also host the masterclass series. One of the mandates of the committee will be to offer a balanced program of guests in terms of gender and race. The bookings will be vetted by the Jazz Area AREDI working group.

September 2020

Working with Professor Bina John and part-time faculty Laura Swankey, members of the Jazz AREDI worked to establish "safe person/safe spaces" for students in distress. These spaces were put into place in October 2020.

Sept 21, 2020

Eddy Aitken, Meghan Gilhespy, Mike Murley, Laura Swankey, and Jacqueline Teh participated in “Equity informed helping skills workshop” with Eden Abraham, MSW, RSW. This workshop was a Faculty initiative led by Prof Bina John.

Sept 29, 2020

Faculty Council voted in favour of a motion to create a Standing Committee on Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression. This Committee replaces the FoM AREDI working group. Jazz Area Chair Mike Murley and Tara Kannangara will continue as members of the new Standing Committee.

October 23, 2020

The Jazz Area AREDI working group approved a U of T Jazz Area statement acknowledging Black American Music to be posted on www.uoftjazz.ca

This statement and a separate statement on anti-racism, diversity and inclusion will be linked to a document outlining and providing updates on AREDI actions taken by U of T Jazz.

The working group proposes that the above statements be included in syllabi for all courses specific to the Jazz Area. Syllabi should also acknowledge the Black artists whose music will be referenced and studied in these courses.

Beginning in the 2021-22 academic year, the working group proposes the creation of a number of small jazz ensembles focused on the music or style of particular Black artists, eg, Mingus ensemble, Strayhorn ensemble, or Shorter ensemble. The mandate is not to necessarily limit these ensembles exclusively to this repertoire but rather to provide a focus for a performing situation in which the students will gain a deeper understanding of some of the most influential Black artists in the history of jazz music. Students in these ensembles will be encouraged to arrange repertoire for the ensemble and/or possibly compose in the style of the artist(s) whom they are studying.