



Feb 14-16, 2025

@NEW SCHOOL  
@JOE'S PUB

LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC  
CHARLESMINGUS.ORG

# 17TH ANNUAL CHARLES MINGUS FESTIVAL & HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

## *Final Adjudication Results for Annual Mingus High School Competition 7 States, 12 Ensembles, 182 Talented High School Students*

NEW YORK, NY, February 19, 2025 — Top high school students from across the United States celebrated the music of the great bassist and composer Charles Mingus (1922-1979) as part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles Mingus High School Competition & Festival at The New School of Jazz.

The event is organized and presented annually by Robert Ungaro of Let My Children Hear Music (The Charles Mingus Institute) and by Dr. Keller Coker and The New School of Jazz, with additional support from Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Adjudicators from Mingus Big Band were: Donald Edwards, Wayne Escoffery, Conrad Herwig, Ingrid Jensen, Boris Kozlov, Jason Marshall, Earl McIntyre, Andy McKee, and Eric Mingus. In categories for both big bands and combos, twelve finalist ensembles were featured in this year's festival. Finalists traveled from all over the country including California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Details for the full weekend's educational and performance activities and livestreams can be found at [charlesmingus.org](http://charlesmingus.org).



*And the awards go to:*

**BEST COMBO**

**Rio Americano High School Combo 1**

Sacramento, California

Director: Josh Murray



**BEST SPECIALIZED COMBO**

**JTol Saxophone Ensemble**

Roselle Park, New Jersey

Director: Julius Tolentino



**BEST BIG BAND**

**William H. Hall High School Concert Jazz Band**

West Hartford, Connecticut

Director: Phil Giampietro



## BEST SPECIALIZED BIG BAND

### **Jazz House Big Band**

Montclair, New Jersey

Director: Nathan Eklund



## MINGUS SPIRIT AWARDS

### **Milwaukee Jazz Institute "A" Train Ensemble**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Director: Mark Davis



### **Newton South High School Big Band**

Newton, Massachusetts

Director: Lisa Linde



## MINGUS SPIRIT MUSICIANS

**Ezra Erickson**, bass, Rio Americano High School

**Noah Rosen**, piano, Jazz at Lincoln Center High School Jazz Academy



### OUTSTANDING RHYTHM SECTION, COMBO

**Jazz House Ambassadors**, Montclair, N.J.  
Director: Mike Lee

### OUTSTANDING FRONTLINE, COMBO

**JTole Saxophone Ensemble**, Roselle Park, N.J.  
Director: Julius Tolentino

### OUTSTANDING RHYTHM SECTION, BIG BAND

**Newark Academy Big Band "Chameleon,"**  
Livingston, N.J.  
Director: Julius Tolentino

### OUTSTANDING WOODWIND SECTION

**William H. Hall High School Concert Jazz Band**,  
West Hartford, Conn.  
Director: Phil Giampietro

### OUTSTANDING BRASS SECTION

**Jazz House Big Band**, Montclair, N.J.  
Director: Nathan Eklund

### OUTSTANDING STUDENT ARRANGERS

**Jaden Evans**, Enloe Jazz Ambassadors, "East Coasting," "Celia"  
**Sam Konin**, Jazz House Ambassadors, "Weird Nightmare"

### OUTSTANDING SOLOISTS

**Anish Alur**, alto saxophone, JTole Saxophone Ensemble  
**Nathan Ben Ari**, drum set, William H. Hall High School/Jazz at Lincoln Center High School Jazz Academy  
**Ben Collins-Siegel**, piano, Jazz House Kids/Newark Academy  
**Emmet Fetting**, alto saxophone, Milwaukee Jazz Institute  
**Killian Hagis**, trumpet, Enloe High School  
**Sam Konin**, bass, Jazz House Kids  
**Chloe Madrak**, tenor saxophone, William H. Hall High School  
**Zuri McCune**, vocal, Jazz House Kids  
**JoJo Roses**, guitar, Jazz at Lincoln Center High School Jazz Academy  
**Ezra Rzetelny**, trombone, Newark Academy  
**Ben Sherman**, tenor saxophone, Jazz House Kids  
**Max Stober**, guitar, Newton South High School  
**Carina Szocik**, piano, Boston Latin School  
**Akshra Yagnik**, vocal, Newark Academy



### THE NEW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

#### \$30,000 scholarship winners:

**Sofia Bo Ix-Siu**, vocal, congas, Rio Americano High School  
**Salome Ospina**, piano, Rio Americano High School  
**Ben Sherman**, tenor saxophone, Jazz House Kids

**\$10,000 scholarships** offered to all graduating seniors who were finalists in the Mingus Competition

## ABOUT LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC

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Let My Children Hear Music, Inc. The Charles Mingus Institute is a nonprofit organization created in 1986 to promote the compositional legacy of musician and composer Charles Mingus through publishing, education, archival preservation, and performance. When Mingus died in 1979 at age 56, he had written over 300 compositions, one of the largest bodies of work in 20th-century American music.

### Staff

Roberto Ungaro, President, Let My Children Hear Music (The Charles Mingus Institute); President, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Shannon Manning, Director of Operations, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Theodore Davis, Librarian, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Eric Mingus, Consultant, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Jenna Love, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Kal Ferretti, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Emma Ungaro, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Rachid Ungaro, Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Let My Children Hear Music, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

***“Let my children have music.  
Let them hear live music. Not noise.  
My children! You do what you want  
with your own!”***

—Charles Mingus

(from the album *Let My Children Hear Music*)

**LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC, INC.  
(THE CHARLES MINGUS INSTITUTE)  
CHARLESMINGUS.ORG**

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

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The School of Jazz and Contemporary Music is renowned across the globe as a center for progressive, ground-breaking artists. Considered the most innovative school of its kind, it offers students an artist-as-mentor approach to learning. The world's leading contemporary and jazz musicians, like Reggie Workman, Matt Wilson, Brandee Younger, Mary Halvorson, Linda May Han Oh, Jane Ira Bloom, and more, work with students one-on-one to hone their craft and create groundbreaking music.

This is a rare place where students can pursue what makes their artistic voice unique. We encourage students to explore their own talents and reach across disciplines to construct new rhythms, inventive compositions, and original means of expression. There are nearly 80 ensembles students can play in each semester.

Outside the classroom, New York City becomes a performance hall. Play in clubs, concert halls, and venues throughout New York and in festivals and exchange programs around the world. Students can start their professional performance career right away through our Gig Office; we have the largest music internship program in New York. There is opportunity to work with producers, editors, and recording artists of the highest caliber. Students will be immersed not only in the newest music but also in the nuances of the music industry.

Our curriculum allows students to infuse their music education with elements of design, literature, history, journalism and more. Students can take courses offered at the Mannes School of Music, Parsons School of Design, and Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts. In addition, we have created a number of project-based interdisciplinary classes, such as an exploration of sound-image relationships in early 20th-century multimedia art, offered by Parsons and Jazz. The results of this university-wide interconnectivity can be seen in the success of our alumni in a range of genres and categories of creative work, both in and outside of music.

**THE NEW SCHOOL**  
**JAZZ**