

# Gabriel Herrera

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## EDUCATION

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**M.M. in Trombone Performance** Expected 2025

Pennsylvania State University

Assistantships: Jazz Studies and Trombone

**B.A. in Philosophy and Jazz Studies (honors in music)** 2023

Columbia University

Capstone: directed big band concert of all original compositions/arrangements

## COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Pennsylvania State University (PA)** 2024 – Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Trombone

- Teach individual applied trombone lessons to undergraduates
- Teach Brass Methods introductory brass course to undergraduates
- Assist in coaching trombone choir
- Organize community outreach/recruitment performances at churches across the region
- Coordinate trombone studio lesson schedules and studio-wide event calendar
- Successfully coordinate funding applications for guest artist programming

**Pennsylvania State University (PA)** 2023 – Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Jazz Studies

- Directed Inner Dimensions big band
- Directed Slide Dimensions jazz trombone ensemble
- Coached multiple jazz combos
- Presented masterclasses on jazz improvisation topics to jazz combo participants
- Taught weekly individual jazz lessons to 6 undergraduates
- Taught Jazz Arranging course as substitute teacher
- TAed Jazz Improvisation I course for beginner improvisers
- Organized digital outreach and engagement with nearby high schools
- Assisted in organization of programming including the 2024 Penn State Jazz Festival
- Managed jazz department calendar and jazz office faculty use schedule
- Developed concert programs for external use
- Maintained and organized music library
- Leveraged Finale music notation software to edit/write parts for varied music ensembles
- Served on search committee for 1-year trombone faculty appointment

**Columbia University (NY)**

2019 – 2023

Music appreciation seminar performer/presenter

- Demonstrated jazz and music theory topics to music appreciation courses for jazz unit
- Addressed questions from non-music major undergraduates about jazz genre and culture

**SELECTED SOLO PERFORMANCES**

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Gabriel Herrera Quartet gig, Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2024
Master of Music Recital #1, Pennsylvania State University (PA)	2024
Gabriel Herrera Quartet gig, Broadway Dive (NY)	2023
Gabriel Herrera Quartet gig, Pine Grove Hall (PA)	2023
Guest Artist Recital, Penn State Trombone Labor Days (PA)	2023
Gabriel Herrera Quartet gig, Rockwood Music Hall (NY)	2023
Gabriel Herrera Quartet gig, Silvana Harlem (NY)	2023
Senior Recital, Columbia University (NY)	2023

**JAZZ AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Notable Musicians Performed With**

Emmet Cohen, Terri Lyne Carrington, David Gibson, Corey Wallace, Craig Taborn, Chris Washburne, Obed Calvaire, Todd Harrison, Vardan Ovsepiyan, Ronen Itzik, Ole Mathisen, Tim Norton, Aaron Seeber, Bertha Hope, Zachary Adleman, Raphael Silverman, Steve Rudolph, Joshua Davis, Bruce Acosta, Fabian Almazan, Caroline Davis, Rick Hirsch, and Bonerama

**Previous Domestic Performance Venues/Festivals**

Litchfield Jazz Festival (CT), West Virginia University Jazz Festival (WV), Penn State Jazz Festival (PA), Williamsport Jazz Festival (PA), Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (PA), ShapeShifter Lab (NY), Symphony Space (NY), Rockwood Music Hall (NY), Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room (NY), Fiction Brooklyn (NY), Silvana Harlem (NY), Broadway Dive (NY), The Forum (NY), Columbia University Low Library Rotunda (NY), Italian Academy (NY), Pine Grove Hall (PA), American Ale House and Grill (PA), and The Pullo Center (PA)

**Previous International Performance Venues/Festivals**

Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), Funky Claude's Bar (Switzerland), Jazz a Vienne jazz festival (France), Jazz a Juan jazz festival (France), Luxembourg Garden (France), Anfiteatro Bindo (Italy), University of Siena (Italy), Case Del Cinema (Italy)

## **Ensembles**

Happy Valley Jazz Octet (PA), bandleader, arranger, and trombone soloist	2024 – Present
Buzz Jones Big Band (PA), substitute trombone	2024 – Present
Home Planet neo-soul and R&B band (PA), section trombone	2024 – Present
Gill Street funk band (PA), substitute trombone	2024 – Present
Williamsport City Jazz Orchestra (PA), substitute trombone	2024 – Present
Duck Iridescent funk band (PA), section trombone	2024 – Present
Gabriel Herrera Quartet (NY), bandleader, composer, and trombone soloist	2023 – Present
Gabriel Herrera Big Band (NY), bandleader, arranger, and trombone soloist	2023 – Present
Jon Block Quartet (NY), arranger and trombone soloist	2023 – Present
Zeropoint Big Band (PA), rotating lead trombone and 2 <sup>nd</sup> trombone	2023 – Present
Centre Dimensions Big Band (PA), lead trombone	2023 – Present
Slide Dimensions jazz trombone ensemble (PA), lead trombone and director	2023 – Present
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Jazz Band (PA), substitute lead trombone	2018 – Present
Adam Hallacher Jazz Octet (PA), trombone soloist	2024
NYU All-University Big Band (NY), substitute trombone	2023
State College Area High School Jazz Band (PA), guest artist	2023
Columbia University Jazz Ensemble with David Gibson (NY), trombone soloist	2022 – 2023
Flutopia Jazz Ensemble (PA), trombone soloist	2016 – 2023
StevenCharles pop singer (NY), trombone soloist	2022
PAKBAND big band (NY), 2 <sup>nd</sup> trombone	2021
Dark Sky Hustlers fusion band (NY), trombone soloist	2021
Columbia University Jazz Ensemble with Bruce Barth (NY), trombone soloist	2021
Columbia University Jazz Ensemble with Don Sickler (NY), trombone soloist	2019 – 2021
Columbia University Big Band (NY), 2 <sup>nd</sup> trombone	2019 – 2021
Keystone Society of Swing big band (PA), substitute lead trombone	2017 – 2018

## **ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE**

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Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra (PA), substitute principal trombone (incl. alto)	2023 – Present
Nittany Valley Symphony (PA), substitute principal trombone	2023 – Present
Penn State Philharmonic Orchestra (PA), rotating principal/2 <sup>nd</sup> trombone	2023 – Present

Tatsuya Daniel Orchestra (MA), substitute trombone	2023 – Present
Columbia University Orchestra (NY), rotating principal/2 <sup>nd</sup> trombone	2022 – 2023
Juniata College Orchestra, substitute trombone	2019

## **CHAMBER MUSIC EXPERIENCE**

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Happy Valley Trombone Quartet (PA), bandleader	2024 – Present
Penn State Trombone Choir (PA)	2023 – Present
Centre Brass brass choir (PA)	2023 – Present
Our Lady of Victory church ensemble (PA)	2022 – Present
Altoona Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament church ensemble (PA)	2020 – Present
Cleveland Trombone Seminar Trombone Choir (OH) (incl. alto)	2024
Cleveland Trombone Seminar Trombone Octet (OH) (incl. alto)	2024
Nittany Valley Symphony Encore Ensemble (PA)	2023

## **COMPOSITIONS, ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS**

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### **Compositions**

[C8] “Outro” for jazz octet Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)	2024
[C7] “Legacy” for jazz sextet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet with guest trombonists Mark L. Lusk and Dr. Elisabeth Shafer at Penn State Trombone Labor Days (PA)	2023
[C6] “Rosemary” for jazz quintet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quintet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)	2023
[C5] “Ironing Board” for jazz quartet Recorded by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Rudy Van Gelder Studio (NJ)	2023
[C4] “Sunlight” for jazz quartet Recorded by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Rudy Van Gelder Studio (NJ)	2023
[C3] “Riverbed” for jazz quartet Recorded by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Rudy Van Gelder Studio (NJ)	2023

[C2] “Sunlight” for big band 2023  
Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Big Band at the Italian Academy (NY)

[C1] “Riverbed” for big band 2023  
Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Big Band at the Italian Academy in (NY)

### **Arrangements**

[A18] “Haitian Fight Song” (Mingus) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A17] “Shiny Stockings” (Foster) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A16] “Ugetsu (Fantasy in D)” (Walton) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A15] “Beyond The Sea” (Trenet) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A14] “Beyond The Sea” (Trenet) for big band 2024  
Performed by Inner Dimensions big band at the Penn State School of Music (PA)

[A13] “That’s Life” (Gordon, Kay) for jazz trombone ensemble 2024  
Performed by Slide Dimensions jazz trombone ensemble at the Penn State School of Music (PA)

[A12] “My Way” (Revaux, Francois) for jazz trombone ensemble 2024  
Performed by Slide Dimensions jazz trombone ensemble at the Penn State School of Music (PA)

[A11] “Book’s Bossa (Saudade)” (Booker) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A10] “Dreaming” (Barron, Orio, Ra) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A9] “[Let’s] Swing A Little Taste” (Priester) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

[A8] “Theme for Red” (Walton) for jazz octet 2024  
Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)

- [A7] “Scotch and Water” (Zawinul) for jazz octet 2024  
 Performed by the Happy Valley Jazz Octet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)
- [A6] “Harmony of Faith” (Alington, Speratus, Handel) for trombone quartet 2024  
 Commissioned and performed by the Happy Valley Trombone Quartet at Good Shepherd Catholic Church (PA)
- [A5] “O Tannenbaum” (Traditional) for English horn, flute, and trombone 2023  
 Commissioned and performed by the Nittany Valley Symphony Encore Ensemble at the First Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte (PA)
- [A4] “After You’ve Gone” (Creamer) for big band 2023  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Big Band at the Italian Academy (NY)
- [A3] “It’s You I Like” (Rogers) for big band 2023  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Big Band at the Italian Academy (NY)
- [A2] “Hey Lock” (Davis/Griffin) for big band 2023  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Big Band at the Italian Academy (NY)
- [A1] “Luv (Reprise)” (Charles) for pop band with horn line 2022  
 Commissioned and recorded by pop group StevenCharles for the album *Indigo*

### **Transcriptions**

- [T23] “The Star-Spangled Banner” (Smith) for trombone quartet 2024  
 Edited for the Penn State Trombone Choir to perform at Penn State’s College of Arts and Architecture graduate ceremony
- [T22] “After The Morning” (Hicks) for jazz quartet 2024  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)
- [T21] “Gnid” (Dameron) for jazz quartet 2024  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)
- [T20] “This I Dig Of You” (Mobley) for jazz quartet 2024  
 Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)
- [T19] “Funky Fluke” (Davis) for jazz quartet 2024  
 Performed by the Penn State Jazz Ensemble at the Penn State School of Music (NY)

[T18] “On A Misty Night” (Dameron) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at the Penn State School of Music (PA)	2024
[T17] “Poinciana” (Simon) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at the Penn State School of Music (PA)	2024
[T16] “Top of My Head” (Hargrove) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2024
[T15] “Aphelion” (Gwizdala) for jazz quartet Performed by the Columbia Jazz Ensemble at Symphony Space (NY)	2023
[T14] “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” (Loesser) for jazz quintet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quintet at Pine Grove Hall (PA)	2023
[T13] “Gungala” (Malatesta) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Silvana Harlem (NY)	2023
[T12] “Hey, Lock” (Davis/Griffin) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Silvana Harlem (NY)	2023
[T11] “Home (When Shadows Fall)” (Clarkson) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Broadway Dive (NY)	2023
[T10] “Saturday Night (Is The Loneliest Night of the Week)” (Cahn/Stein) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Broadway Dive (NY)	2023
[T9] “Jeannine” (Pearson) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Broadway Dive (NY)	2023
[T8] “On The Trail” (Grofe) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2023
[T7] “Days of Wine and Roses” (Mancini) for jazz quintet Performed by the Columbia Jazz Ensemble at Rockefeller Center’s Rainbow Room (NY)	2023
[T6] “Say When” (Johnson) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Silvana Harlem (NY)	2023

[T5] “O Christmas Tree” (Traditional) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2023
[T4] “Without A Song” (Youmans) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2023
[T3] “Central Park West” (Coltrane) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Fiction Brooklyn (NY)	2023
[T2] “Violets” (Van Rooyen) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Silvana Harlem (NY)	2023
[T1] “Ciribiribin” (Pestalozza) for jazz quartet Performed by the Gabriel Herrera Quartet at Cayuga Shoreline (NY)	2023

## **OTHER MUSIC-RELATED EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Private Music Teacher (PA, NY)</b> Freelance private music teacher	2023 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered pro bono music lessons to underprivileged elementary schoolers in NYC through the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization the Musical Mentors Collaborative</li> <li>• Taught high schoolers individual lessons on trombone fundamentals and jazz studies</li> <li>• Taught undergraduate music majors and non-majors individual lessons about trombone, jazz improvisation, music theory, sight-singing, and jazz piano voicings</li> </ul>	
<b>Columbia University Records recording studio (NY)</b> Audio engineer	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained in various digital audio workstations (DAWs) for mixing</li> <li>• Assisted in management of recording studio, including positioning mics and wrapping wires</li> </ul>	
<b>State College Area High School (PA)</b> Guest performing/teaching artist and chaperone for European Tour	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed alongside outstanding high school jazz band at venues including Jazz a Vienne</li> <li>• Taught individual lessons on subjects including jazz improvisation and music theory</li> <li>• Chaperoned approximately 20 high school music students throughout tour</li> </ul>	
<b>Columbia University (NY)</b> Research Assistant at the Initiative for a Just Society	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted musician-in-residence and social justice advocate Kenyatta Emmanuel Hughes</li> </ul>	



- Assisted in development of Columbia University course syllabus including topics related to American prison music and the social relationship between music and incarceration
- Located potential rehearsal and/or performance venues

**Second Floor Music (NY) 2023**

Freelance Music Engraver and Transcriber

- Transcribed and engraved solos from jazz trombonist Carl Fontana for publication
- Engraved jazz lead sheets in Finale for publication
- Edited and proofread Finale documents for clarity, brevity, and consistency

**The Flutopia Initiative 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (PA) 2018 – 2023**

Arts Admin Associate: Event Planning, Marketing, and Merchandising

- Coordinated operations for fundraising events including concerts and 5K races
- Designed marketing materials including social media graphics and flyers
- Developed merchandising strategy and created t-shirt design for Food Bank fundraiser

**Cervitude Intelligent Relations (CT) 2020**

Management Consulting Intern (music industry emphasis)

- Conducted research on global music business industry trends with a focus on streaming
- Presented research on global music industry trends to internal senior management
- Synthesized and compiled music industry research for publication through firm’s website
- Created business plan for musical group to mitigate financial losses during pandemic
- Utilized financial model to forecast realistic revenue growth for musical group

**HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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Graduate teaching assistantship in trombone, Pennsylvania State University	2024 – Present
Graduate teaching assistantship in jazz studies, Pennsylvania State University	2023 – Present
Departmental Honors in Music for Senior Capstone Project, Columbia University	2023
Recording session at Rudy Van Gelder Studio, Columbia University	2023
Columbia Spirit Award, Columbia University	2023
Wallace Taylor Memorial Scholarship, Columbia University	2023
Benjamin F. and Bernice Block Scholarship, Columbia University	2023
Maestro Award for Outstanding Solo, WorldStrides Heritage Festival	2019
Louis Armstrong Award, State College Area High School	2019
Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Solo, Essentially Ellington	2018

## **FESTIVALS, SYMPOSIA, AND SUMMER PROGRAMS**

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Cleveland Trombone Seminar (OH), masterclass participant	2024
Fruhling Posaunen at the Eastman School of Music (NY), masterclass participant	2024
Eastman Summer Jazz Studies (NY), masterclass participant	2019
Fruhling Posaunen at Penn State University (PA), soloist with All-State Trombone Choir	2019
Eastman Summer Trombone Institute (NY), masterclass participant	2018
American Trombone Workshop (VA)	2018
Litchfield Jazz Camp (CT)	2017
Penn State Honors Music Institute – Jazz Studies (PA)	2017
Central PA Friends of Jazz Camp (PA)	2016
Penn State Honors Music Institute – Classical Studies (PA)	2016

## **MASTERCLASS PARTICIPATION**

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Orchestral Excerpt Performance, Peter Ellefson at Cleveland State University	2024
Classical Solo Performance, Cristina Cutts Dougherty at Cleveland State University	2024
Chamber Ensemble Performance, Air Force Academy trombones at the Eastman School	2024
Jazz Combo Performance, Obed Calvaire and Fabian Almazan at Penn State University	2024
Composition Presentation, Jihye Lee at Penn State University	2024
Composition Presentation, Ben Patterson at Penn State University	2024
Trombone Choir Performance, Joseph Alessi and Mark L. Lusk at the Juilliard School	2023
Jazz Improvisation Performance, Jack Courtright at the Eastman School	2019
Jazz Improvisation/Etude Performance, Alex Iles at the Eastman School	2018

## **PRIMARY TEACHERS**

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Jennifer Wharton, Pennsylvania State University (trombone)	2024 – Present
Dr. Joshua Davis, Pennsylvania State University (jazz improvisation)	2023 – Present
Dr. Daniel Twentey, Pennsylvania State University (trombone)	2024
Mark L. Lusk, Pennsylvania State University (trombone)	2023 – 2024
David Gibson, Columbia University (trombone, jazz comp./arr./improv.)	2019 – 2023
Ole Mathisen, Columbia University (jazz comp./arr./improv.)	2023
Don Sickler, Columbia University (jazz arranging/improvisation, music engraving)	2023

Additional lessons with trombonists Peter Steiner, Alex Iles, Peter Ellefson, Shachar Israel, Peter McEachern, Kevin McManus, and Austin Oprean and jazz artists Vardan Ovsepian, Dave Rivello, Jeff Kunkel, David Morris, and Rick Hirsch

## **REFERENCES**

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*Available upon request*