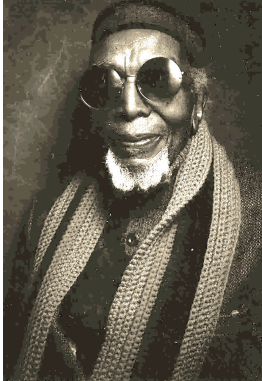




OUR GRIOTS



Juma Sultan - Creative Director

Juma Sultan is a culture bearer like no other.

He may be best known for his work with Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock, and before that, as a pioneer of the New York “loft jazz” scene in 1960s.

Juma is a modern day griot and in that capacity opens his heart to his students, his fans, and the world.

Avery Sharpe



Avery Sharpe is a prolific composer and band leader. In 1980 he won a spot in McCoy Tyner’s group, playing hundreds of gigs worldwide and appearing on more than 20 recordings.

Sharpe has collaborated with Dizzy Gillespie, Wynton Marsales, Yusef Lateef, Bobby McFerrin, Pat Metheny, and Billy Taylor.

He has lectured at the University of Massachusetts, Williams College, Berklee School of Music, Bates College, the University of Miami, and at colleges in Peru, Brazil, Australia and elsewhere.

His awards include The NAACP Martin Luther King Jr Special Achievement Award, several National Endowment for the Arts Grants and the New England Foundation for the Arts Achievement in Jazz Award.

Mayra Casales



Mayra Casales was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up in Miami. She studied with **Carlos “Patato” Valdés** and performed with **Celia Cruz, Machito** and **Tito Puente**.

Moving to New York City, she was able to connect with jazz greats like **Dizzy Gillespie, Wayne Shorter** and **Ray Barretto**.

In 2008, Mayra founded the all-women Latin band **Cocomama**.



OUR FACULTY

Charlie Apicella - Program Director, head writer



Charlie Apicella was voted onto the 84th and 86th **DownBeat Readers Poll** for Guitar. He is Vice President of Education for the North Jersey Blues Society.

He studied composition and improvisation with musical titans **Yusef Lateef** and **Pat Martino** and was trained as a historian by **Archie Shepp** and **Dr. Billy Taylor**. As a young guitarist he met his idol **BB King**, who offered him advice and shared some stories.

Charlie has written two lessons for **DownBeat**, one for **Just Jazz Guitar**, and has developed his own guitar and history curriculum, **Solid Guitar**, for **Jazz Anywhere** and **TrueFire**. He's been on the faculty of **New York Jazz Workshop** for more than ten years.

Zuria Lewis - Director of Curriculum, head lecturer



Zuria has been a classroom educator for almost two decades. She has taught the gamut of students, ranging from ability (Special Education, General Education, Gifted) and age (K-12).

She believes it is important for students to not only find their voice, their rhythm, their story, but to also possess the ability to tell it to the world in a creative medium, like music.

Amy Bateman - Director of Applied Music, curriculum developer



Amy has performed at the **Newport Jazz Festival**, **Carnegie Hall**, and **Lincoln Center**, and on tours with **Michael Bublé**, **Marc Ribot**, and **John Blake, Jr.** as well as one of the biggest hip-hop artists of all time.

She has taught orchestra in Brooklyn, NY public schools for more than 10 years as well as coaching and adjudicating youth orchestras in New York City, New Jersey, and Massachusetts for nearly 20 years.

Richard Arum - Director of Theater Arts, curriculum developer



Richard Arum has performed in theater, film, and television, and can be seen opposite Kevin James in the movie *Here Comes the Boom*. His film *So I Was Wondering...* was featured in film festivals across the U.S. and received Special Recognition for Directing from the San Francisco Shorts Film Festival.

Richard has taught theater for almost twenty years in schools, after school programs, summer camps, and theater workshops.



The Mishpaka Drummers - lecturers



Mishpaka is a word which means 'family.'

The Mishpaka Drummers were founded by a group of brothers who grew up playing music together under the direction of their father, the late Cohen Levi in the late 1990s.

Now their sons and nephews have the same gift and carry on the tradition.

Damon Grant - lecturer



Damon worked with **Madonna** on her 2012 Super Bowl halftime show, her MDNA tour, and DVD premiere in NYC. He has recorded on **Grammy**-Nominated albums by Joe Louis Walker and Randy Rainbow and co-hosts a weekly percussion podcast called [Discussions in Percussion](#).

He has contributed articles to **Modern Drummer Magazine** and offers masterclasses for percussion groups, drum corps, high schools, and universities.

Madame Pat Tandy - lecturer



Madame Pat Tandy is a true original. She is a legend on the New York City scene and is known as the First Lady Of New Jersey Jazz.

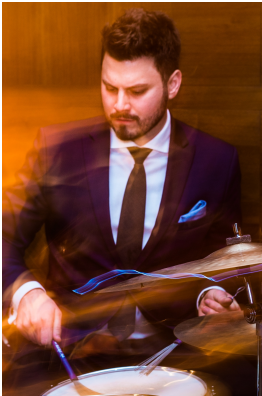
She is a powerful and dynamic performer who has left audiences all over the world mesmerized.

A native of Jacksonville, FL, Tandy has lived in Newark, NJ most of her life. Her first exposure to an international audience was with the legendary Philly Soul group The Pretenders who had several hits on Carnival Records.



Nabaté Isles - lecturer

Nabaté Isles was born and raised in New York City. He has worked with Christian McBride's Big Band on three Grammy-winning projects, and performed or recorded with dozens of greats including Chuck D, Yasiin Bey, Jeffrey Osborne, Jill Scott, Dianne Reeves, Robert Glasper, Steve Coleman, Joey DeFrancesco and Ravi Coltrane.



Austin Walker - lecturer

Austin is a staff accompanist at Berklee College of music. He has been a first-call drummer in New York City for almost two decades. He earned his Masters Degree in Jazz Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and has performed with artists such as Chris Potter, Luis Bonilla, John Raymond, The Anderson Brothers, The JC Hopkins Biggish Band and The Jose Limon Dance Company.