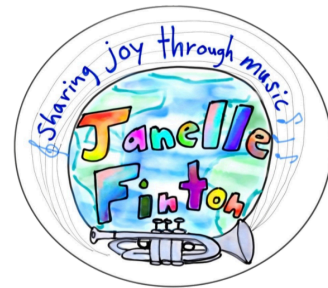


Janelle Finton

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Education

- Graduated magna cum laude with a B.M. in jazz trumpet performance from the University of Miami
- Class of 2023 Frost School of Music Overall Outstanding Senior Award

Experience and Skills

Performance

- Trumpet section member with DIVA Jazz Orchestra at TAC Jazz Festival, Bradley University Jazz Festival, Iowa Jazz Championships (2025, 2026)
- Vocalist with Maria Schneider Orchestra at Ravinia Festival, Elmhurst Jazz Festival (2023, 2024)
- Trumpet section member of the John Daversa Progressive Big Band at the Baked Potato in LA, Jazz Education Network Conference (2024), Live album recording at the Baked Potato (2023)
- Trumpet Section member of the Generation Gap Jazz Orchestra at the New Trier Jazz Festival, Jazz in the Meadows Festival (2024, 2025)
- Trumpet section member of the Grace Fox Big Band, playing at Birdland, Dizzy's club, and Times Square in New York (2022-2025)
- Subbed in pit orchestras for Beehive, White Christmas, Catch Me if You Can at the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, and Legally Blonde at Music Theater Works (2024)
- Played lead trumpet in the world premiere of Chucho Valdes' "La Creación", with Frost Studio Jazz Band (2021)
- Leading worship, playing piano, trumpet, singing, and arranging for church worship band

Composition

- Big Band Commission "The Landscape Remembers" by the Ensworth School (2026)
- Carnegie Hall Arrangement Commission for NYO Jazz 2025, Conducted on tour in Latin America
- Concert band arrangement of "Letting Go: Space for Joy" commissioned by the John Hersey High School Symphonic Band, premiere at Midwest Clinic (2024)
- Big band chart "Midnight Song" commissioned by John Hersey High School (2024)
- Big band chart "Letting Go: Space for Joy" published through Brava Jazz
- Vocal Jazz arrangement of Cole Porter's "I Love You" published through Anchor Music
- Debuted folk/jazz group "joygarden", performing original songs (2024)
- Arranged and Orchestrated "Dancing in the Street" arr. by John Daversa for Regina Carter and the Frost Concert Jazz Band (2023)
- Orchestra reading for piece "Hope Amidst the Longing" by the Frost Repertory Orchestra
- Arranged big band chart for Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz, performed at the Young Euro Classic Festival in Berlin (2018)

Teaching

- 2025-2026: Guest Artist: Moraine Valley College, College of Dupage, Iowa City High School, Ensworth School, Glenview Concert Band, Hersey High School
- 2025-2026 Adjudicating: Jerry E Lewis Jazz Festival, Old Quarry Middle School Jazz Festival, Jazz in the Meadows, ILMEA Large Ensemble Festival, Iowa Jazz Championships
- 2024 director of ILMEA District 7 high school jazz band 2, District 1, 2025
- Jazz trumpet and voice instructor for Interlochen Arts Academy summer camp 2024, 2025, 2026
- Directing jazz combos at Rolling Meadows High School, and Buffalo Grove High School

- Teaching private trumpet and music lessons in the Chicago area, Conant and Palatine High Schools, Northfield School of Music
- Trumpet/jazz/artistry Workshops (Lake Zurich HS, Wheeling HS, Hersey HS, New Trier HS, Evanston Township HS, Harper College, Grayslake North HS)
- 2023-2024 assistant director of a cappella at Niles West High School, and arranging part of competition set for nationals

Awards & Recognition

- Chosen to represent Frost in the International Association of Schools of Jazz conference in Helsinki, Finland, performing original music with students from all over the world (2023)
- Downbeat award winner for best jazz arrangement in the student music awards (2021)
- Downbeat Outstanding Performance Award as a member of Frost Jazz Vocal 1 (2020, 2021)
- Aspen JAS Academy Big Band (Director Christian McBride) (2020)
- Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz led by Sean Jones which toured to Europe with Dianne Reeves (2018), and toured to Asia with Kurt Elling (2019)
- American Composer's Forum "Next Notes" composition contest winner (2019)
- NAFME All-National Jazz Band (2018), NAFME All-National Concert Band (2017)

Private Instructors

Brian Lynch 2019-2023 Etienne Charles 2022

Jazz Voice- Dr. Kate Reid 2021-2022

Improvisation- Dafnis Prieto 2021

Composition/Orchestration/Notation- Dr. Stephen Guerra 2020 Gary Fry 2020

Jazz trumpet- Mark Olen 2016-2019

Classical voice- Kirsten Leslie 2015-2019

Classical trumpet- Scott MacQuarrie 2012-2019

- Additional artists/professors worked with at Frost include: John Daversa, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Maria Schneider, Luciana Souza, John Hart, Gary Lindsey, Shelly Berg, Chuck Bergeron, Jihye Lee, Troy Roberts