

# Nathan Mertens, DMA

SAXOPHONIST • EDUCATOR • PERFORMER

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## EDUCATION

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May 2017	THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Austin, TX <b>D.M.A. in Saxophone Performance</b> Document: <i>"Beginning Approaches to Saxophone Voicing: Pedagogy and Methodology"</i> Major Professor: Stephen Page
May 2014	THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Austin, TX <b>M.M. in Saxophone Performance</b>
May 2012	HASTINGS COLLEGE Hastings, NE <b>B.M. in Saxophone Performance</b> <i>magna cum laude</i> <b>B.A. in Multiple Woodwind Pedagogy</b> <i>magna cum laude</i> Major Professor: Debra McKim-Rhodes

## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

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2019-present	HASTINGS COLLEGE Hastings, NE
2021-present	<b>Assistant Professor</b> <i>non-tenure track</i>
2020-2021	<b>Visiting Assistant Professor</b>
2019-2020	<b>Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow</b>

### TEACHING

Applied Woodwind Lessons  
Artist Entrepreneurship  
Foundations of Music 0 (Music Theory)  
Foundations of Music IV (Music Theory)  
Woodwind Methods  
First-Year Seminars - Interdisciplinary Inquiry  
The History and Culture of the United Kingdom (Study Abroad)  
Elementary Japanese

### SERVICE\*

Academic Advisor for Music Majors and First-Year Students  
Chair, All-State Prep Week  
Graduate School Advisory Council  
Created curriculum and outcomes for the First-Year Seminar Program  
Developed the travel itinerary for EXPL 325 (England/Scotland & Japan)  
Edited Program Learning Outcomes for the Music Department  
Created assessment rubrics for the Music Department  
Perform regularly with college ensemble and for campus events  
Recruit for the Department of Music & Theatre

*\*DEI Service can be found on page 4*

2021-present	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY Waco, TX <b>Lecturer</b> <i>part-time</i>
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### TEACHING

Entrepreneurship in Music

2021-present	<p>NORTH AMERICAN SAXOPHONE ALLIANCE  <b>Marketing Director-Fundraising &amp; Development</b></p> <p>DUTIES &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain strong relationships with industry leaders who exhibit at regional and biennial meetings of the organization.</li> <li>• Coordinate with conference hosts to ascertain available space for booths, and a suitable layout for all conference vendors.</li> <li>• Secure advertising for <i>The Saxophone Symposium</i>, Biennial Conference program booklets, and Regional Conferences from vendors in the industry.</li> <li>• Organize and create NASA's first endowed funds</li> </ul>
2021-present	<p>INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE Geneva, Switzerland  <b>Examiner</b></p> <p>DUTIES &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a music examiner for biannual testing</li> </ul>

#### ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

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2022	<p>GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM  <b>Executive Graduate Certificate</b> in Social Entrepreneurship, Cultural Agency, Community Development, Organization Management, Design Thinking &amp; Education Leadership</p>
2021	<p>MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  <b>Nationally Certified Teacher of Music</b> in Saxophone</p>
2019	<p>KUNITACHI COLLEGE OF MUSIC Tokyo, Japan  <b>Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Research Program</b> (Non-degree seeking)  Major Professor: Masato Kumoi</p>
2017	<p>TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES Tokyo, Japan  <b>Japanese Language Certificate</b>  Major Professor: Yoko Oka</p>

#### ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2019-present	<p>MERTENS STUDIO South Central Nebraska  <b>Independent Lesson Instructor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and maintain an independent studio of beginner to pre-college students</li> <li>• Organize outreach recitals for students every year</li> <li>• Students received top ratings at contests and membership into honor festivals, including NMEA All-State</li> </ul>
2021	<p>OPEN SPACE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Hastings, NE  <b>Woodwind Faculty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught lessons to pre-college student</li> <li>• Coached a mixed woodwind ensemble</li> <li>• Created and taught elective courses, including Reeds 101, Intro to World Music, and Improvisation.</li> </ul>

- 2017-2019 TCH ENGLISH SCHOOL Tokyo, Japan  
**English Language Instructor**
- Taught private and group English lessons to Japanese students ranging in age from 4-75 years old
  - Created lesson plans for weekly classes based on prescribed text
- 2016-2017 D'ADDARIO & COMPANY Farmingdale, NY  
**D'Addario Woodwind Method Clinician**
- Served as a brand ambassador for D'Addario Woodwind Products
  - Organized and schedule monthly outreach appointments
  - Taught saxophone clinics and masterclasses throughout Texas and Nebraska
  - Created media content for D'Addario Woodwind blog
- 2015-2020 SAXOPHONE ACADEMY AUSTIN, SUMMER CAMP Austin, TX  
**Saxophone Faculty**
- Taught masterclasses to middle and high school students
  - Directed and coached a small saxophone ensemble
  - Taught courses on Saxophone History, Practice Techniques, Altissimo, and Free Improvisation
  - Developed and modernized online curriculum (Summer 2020)
- 2015-2019 LONGHORN MUSIC CAMP Austin, TX  
**Saxophone Instructor**
- Taught individual saxophone lesson to precollege students
  - Taught a general saxophone masterclass to each band level
  - Taught an elective course in classical improvisation
  - Coached the Honors Wind Ensemble Saxophone Quartet
- 2014-2016 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN Austin, TX  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant**
- TEACHING
- Lower Division Saxophone: Secondary
  - Woodwind Instrument Fundamentals
  - Chamber Music
  - Saxophone Ensemble
- SERVICE
- 2015 Led a \$6,000 fundraising campaign for conference attendance  
Maintained social media platforms for the studio
  - 2014 Created social media platforms for the studio  
Recruited and reopened a studio of non-majors to a point where auditions are necessary
- 2011-2017 AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Austin, TX  
**Independent Saxophone Instructor**
- Provided saxophone instruction to beginner to pre-college students at multiple middle and high schools
  - Emphasis placed on communication skills, time management, and goal setting
  - Assisted with college applications, resume editing, and interview skills
  - Placed students in the 6A TMEA All-State Band

- Former students are currently enrolled in college music programs (The University of Texas at Austin, Arizona State University, Indiana University)
- Student selected as a finalist in the US Navy Band Concerto Competition and the International Saxophone Symposium Honors Recital

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, ACCESS & BELONGING - SERVICE & EDUCATION

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### NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

2020-present	<b>Advisory Board Member</b> - The Elise Hall Saxophone Competition & Conference
2018-present	<b>Creator</b> - Japanese Saxophone Database
2020-2021	<b>Member</b> - NASA's Committee on the Status of Women Mentoring Committee
2018-2019	<b>Creator/Organizer</b> - Japanese Saxophone Consortium Commission

### LOCAL, HASTINGS

2020-present	<b>Co-Chair</b> - Hastings College Diversity Strategic Planning Committee
2020- present	<b>Member</b> - Hastings International Exchange Organization
2019- present	<b>Faculty Sponsor</b> -Alliance (LGBTQIA+ Advocacy) Group
2020-2021	<b>Member</b> - Hastings College Faculty Diversity Committee
2020	<b>Member</b> - Equitable Systems for Transgender/Non-Binary Student Committee

### EDUCATION

2022	Muma College of Business - University of South Florida <b>Inclusive and Ethical Leadership Certificate</b>
2021	Muma College of Business - University of South Florida <b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate</b>
2020	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <b>Race and Cultural Diversity in American Life and History</b>

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

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### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

- Japanese Saxophone Database (<https://www.japanesesaxophonedatabase.com>)
- Created the first comprehensive Japanese Saxophone Anthology
  - Catalogues CDs, Sheet Music (Originals & Arrangements), Performers, Competitions, Festivals, and Universities/Professors
  - Selects, writes, and manages the website blog

### ARTICLES/PODCASTS

- Chika & Scott. "Live Chat with Nathan Mertens." *Facebook*. October 7, 2021.  
<https://fb.watch/9aHOvkqXln/>
- Mertens, Nathan. "Kenta Saito." *TheSaxophonist.org*. January 1, 2020.  
<https://www.thesaxophonist.org/kenta-saito>.
- Mertens, Nathan. "Product Review: Yanagisawa SIXS Ligature" *TheSaxophonist.org*. July 6, 2019.  
<https://www.thesaxophonist.org/yanagisawa-sixs>.
- Mertens, Nathan. "An Insider's Look into Ishimori" *TheSaxophonist.org*. March 1, 2018.  
<https://www.thesaxophonist.org/ishimori>.
- "Dr. Nathan Mertens - Off to Japan." Interview. *The Modern Saxophonists Podcast* (audio blog), March 6, 2017. <https://themodernsaxophonist.libsyn.com/dr-nathan-mertens-off-to-japan>.

Mertens, Nathan. "The Benefits of Playing for 'Other' Musicians." *The Woodwind Method*. January 13, 2017. <http://thewoodwindmethod.com/post/155808845564/the-benefits-of-playing-for-other-musicians-by>.

#### PUBLISHED ARRANGEMENTS

Mackey, John. *Lightning Field*. Arranged by Nathan Mertens. Boston: Osti Music, 2021.

#### COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS

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| ant. 2022 | <b>"Quite the Pair - Duo Saxophone Music"</b><br>Music by Lucy Armstrong, Zach Browning, Andrew Boss, and Nobuhito Sato<br>Independent Label - Performances with Gillian Blair & Ben Powell |
| 2015      | <b>"Six Memos, a ghost story, and some translations..."</b><br>Saxophone Music by Russell Podgorssek<br>Independent Label - Performances with Charlie Chadwell & Vermillion Quartet         |
| 2014      | <b>"Wine-Dark Sea"</b><br>The University of Texas Wind Ensemble, Jerry Junkin, conductor<br>Reference Recordings RR-137 - Performance with the Wind Ensemble                                |

#### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2021 | Hastings College Faculty Development Award Hastings, NE            |
| 2019 | Hastings College Service-Learning Grant Hastings, NE               |
| 2018 | Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship Paris, France                     |
| 2017 | Koen Sponsorship - British Council London, England                 |
| 2017 | Monbukagakusho Research Student Scholarship Recipient Tokyo, Japan |

#### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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##### HOST

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| 2021 | North American Saxophone Alliance Region 3 Conference Online |
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##### PERFORMANCE

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| 2022 | College Music Society Central Region Conference Omaha, NE              |
| 2021 | North American Saxophone Alliance Region 3 Conference Online           |
| 2020 | North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Fayetteville, AR |
| 2019 | Japan Saxophonists Association Conference Tokyo, Japan                 |
| 2018 | World Saxophone Congress Zagreb, Croatia                               |
| 2016 | North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Lubbock, TX      |
| 2015 | Texas Music Educators Association Convention San Antonio, TX           |
| 2015 | North American Saxophone Alliance Region Conference Norman, OK         |
| 2014 | Texas Music Educators Association Convention San Antonio, TX           |
| 2013 | North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Champaign, IL    |
| 2013 | North American Saxophone Alliance Region 4 Conference Fort Worth, TX   |
| 2011 | North American Saxophone Alliance Region 3 Conference Simpson, IA      |
| 2010 | North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Athens, GA       |

#### LECTURE/PRESENTATION

- 2022 "Don't Just Practice: Make Yourself Marketable!"  
 "From the Other Side: Insight and Resources from New Higher-Ed Professionals"  
 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Stillwater, OK
- 2021 "It All Starts Here: The Mouthpiece"  
 South Dakota Music Educators Association Conference Rapid City, SD  
 "It All Starts Here: The Mouthpiece"  
 Iowa Music Educators Association Conference Ames, IA
- 2020 "It All Starts Here: The Mouthpiece"  
 Nebraska Music Educators Association Conference Online
- 2018 "The Global Entrepreneurial Musician"  
 World Saxophone Congress Zagreb, Croatia

## HONORS & AWARDS

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### INTERNATIONAL

- 2018 Third Prize, Kurashiki International Saxophone Competition Kurashiki, Japan
- 2017 Second Grand Prize, North International Music Competition Stockholm, Sweden
- 2016 Special Prize, BMIMF Concerto Competition Busan South Korea
- 2015 Semi-Finalist, North American Saxophone Alliance Solo Competition Lubbock, TX  
 Semi-Finalist, North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition Lubbock, TX

### NATIONAL, USA

- 2017 Semi-Finalist, Young Texas Artist Competition Conroe, TX
- 2016 Finalist, Luce Fellowship New York, New York
- 2015 Finalist, Coltman Chamber Music Competition Austin, TX  
 Finalist, ECSO Instrumental Competition New London, CT  
 Finalist, CDA Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Couer d'Alene, ID  
 Semi-Finalist, Young Texas Artist Competition Conroe, TX
- 2014 Winner, University of Texas Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition Austin, TX
- 2012 Finalist, CDA Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Couer d'Alene, ID
- 2011 Winner, MTNA Young Artist Woodwind State Competition Lincoln, NE  
 Winner, MTNA Young Artist Chamber-Wind State Competition Lincoln, NE  
 Finalist, Arapahoe Philharmonic Concerto Competition Littleton, CO
- 2010 Winner, NMTA Young Artist Woodwind Competition Hastings, NE  
 Winner, Hastings Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Hastings, NE  
 Theodore Presser Scholar, Hastings College Hastings, NE

### INVITED GUEST MASTERCLASSES

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- 2022 Plurinational Conservatory of Music La Paz, Bolivia  
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN  
 South Dakota State University Brookings, SD
- 2021 University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI  
 Texas A&M International University Laredo, TX  
 MidAmerica Nazarene University Olathe, KS  
 Lake Travis High School Austin, TX
- 2020 Nebraska Music Educator Association All-State Alto Saxophones Lincoln, NE  
 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire\*\* Birmingham, England  
 \*\*Cancelled due to COVID-19

2019	Brandon Jinwoo Choi's Studio Seoul, South Korea University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, NE Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK Texas Christian University Fort Worth, TX The University of Texas at Austin Austin, TX Henderson State University Arkadelphia, AR
2016	Concordia College Seward, NE Wayne State College Wayne, NE
2015	University of Texas at San Antonio San Antonio, TX Round Rock High School Round Rock, TX

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

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### INTERNATIONAL - SOLO

2022	Soloist with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Arequipa Arequipa, Peru Recital, Plurinational Conservatory of Music La Paz, Bolivia
2020	Recital, Reid Concert Hall** Edinburgh, Scotland <i>**Cancelled due to COVID-19</i>
2019	Recital, Cosmos Hall Seoul, South Korea Recital, Yamaha Hall Bangkok, Thailand
2018	Recital, Space "Do" Tokyo, Japan Kurashiki Saxophone Festival Kurashiki, Japan Recital, Koganei Miyajigakki Hall Tokyo, Japan Recital, St Olave's Church London, England Recital, St Helen Stonegate York, England Recital, Ozu International Exchange Organization Ozu, Japan
2017	Kurashiki Saxophone Festival Kurashiki, Japan
2016	Soloist with the Busan Philharmonic Orchestra Busan, South Korea

### INTERNATIONAL - CHAMBER/ENSEMBLE

2018	World Saxophone Congress Zagreb, Croatia Japan Saxophone Festival Tokyo, Japan Tenor Saxophone Collective Manchester, England Japanese Saxophone Orchestra Tokyo, Japan
2017	Kunitachi Wind Symphony Tokyo, Japan
2017-2019	Kunitachi Saxophone Ensemble Tokyo, Japan

### NATIONAL, USA - SOLO

2022	Faculty Recital, Hastings College Hastings, NE Guest Recital, South Dakota State University Brookings, SD Guest Recital, Schmitt Music Minneapolis, MN
2021	Soloist with the Hastings College Band Hastings, NE Soloist with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra Hastings, NE
2020	Soloist with the Hastings College Band Hastings, NE Soloist with The University of Texas Wind Symphony** Austin, TX Faculty Recital** Hastings, NE <i>**Cancelled due to COVID-19</i>
2019	Soloist with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra Hastings, NE North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference Fayetteville, AR

2017	North American Saxophone Alliance Region Conference Stillwater, OK
2016	Guest Recital, Concordia University Concordia, NE Guest Recital, Wayne State College Wayne, NE
2015	Guest Recital, The University of Texas at San Antonio San Antonio, TX Soloist with The University of Texas Symphony Orchestra Austin, TX
2014	Soloist with the Austin Saxophone Ensemble Austin, TX
2010	Soloist with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra Hastings, NE

**NATIONAL, USA - CHAMBER/ENSEMBLE**

2020	Omaha Symphony Orchestra Omaha, NE
2016	The University of Texas Symphony Orchestra Austin, TX
2013-2017	Austin Saxophone Ensemble (Founding Member) Austin, TX
2013-2014	The University of Texas New Music Ensemble Austin, TX
2013	San Antonio Symphony San Antonio, TX
2012	The University of Texas University Orchestra Austin, TX
2012-2017	The University of Texas Wind Ensemble Austin, TX
2011-2012	Token Trio Hastings, NE
2009-2011	Ellipsis Saxophone Quartet Lincoln, NE

**ADJUDICATION**

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2022	NSAA District V Music Contest Imperial, NE
2021	Music Teachers National Association State Woodwind Competition Lincoln, NE
2019	Hastings Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition Hastings, NE
2016	TMEA 26 Auditions Georgetown, TX TMEA 32 Auditions Austin, TX UIL Solo & Ensemble, Fulmore Middle School Austin, TX
2015	TMEA 4 Auditions Austin, TX TMEA 32 Auditions Austin, TX UIL Solo & Ensemble, Fulmore Middle School Austin, TX
2014	TMEA 26 Auditions Georgetown, TX UIL Solo & Ensemble, Fulmore Middle School Austin, TX
2013	TMEA Region 4 Auditions Austin, TX UIL Solo & Ensemble, Fulmore Middle School Austin, TX
2012	TMEA Region 4 Auditions Austin, TX

**WORKS COMMISSIONED**

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2021	"Untitled" - Anthony Greene "Brazilian Landscapes No. 21" - Liduino Pitombeira (Consortium) "Sonatina" - Denis Bedard (Consortium)
2020	"Dangerous Coats" - Jessica Rudman (Consortium) "from other futures" - John Anthony Lennon (Consortium)
2019	"In Motion" - Akira Ito "Voyageurs 3" - Sachie Kobayashi "Saxophone Quartet" - Teppei Higuchi "Kageokuri III" - Nanao Yamada "Untitled" - Siting Hiang
2018	"Infinites Untold" - Andrew Boss*



	"Right at the Dead End" - Zach Browning*
	"The Other Dust" - Lucy Armstrong*
2017	"...as one" - Jack Roberts*
	"Untitled Alto Saxophone Sonata" - Daniel Baldwin (Consortium)
	"Saxophone Quartet" - Daniel Baldwin (Consortium)
2015	"Kaidan" - Russell Podgorsek*
	"Katabasis" - Troy Armstrong*
	"Divertimento" - Andrew Boss*
2013	"Vultures" - Carter Pann (Consortium)

*\*Denotes World Premiere Performance*

## WORKS PREMIERED

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2018	"Aquarelle" (Duo Saxophone Version) - Andy Scott
	"Tjuonavagge" (Duo Saxophone Version) - Andy Scott
2017	"Two Vignettes" - Keith Allegreti
2016	"Pillars of Creation" - Rob Deemer
	"LA Overture" - Casey Martin
	"Symphony No. 3" - Nicholas Perry Clark
2014	"The Giant's Tomb" - Bruce Pennycook
	"Tetelestai" - Andrew Boss
	"Sarabande and Retaliation" - Michael Mikulka
	"Plunge" - Chris Ozley
	"American Counterpoint for Saxophone Quartet" - David Adams
2013	"Codex" - Marko Bajzer
	"Translations" - Russell Podgorsek
2012	"Sacred Spaces" - Brandon Scott Rumsey
	"Get a Grip" - Marshall Bessières

## ARTIST AFFILIATION

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2021	D'Addario Woodwinds Artist
2021	Yamaha Performing Artist

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Alpha Chi	American Association of University Professors
College Music Society	Music Teachers National Association
Nebraska Music Educators Association	National Association for Music Education
North American Saxophone Alliance	Omicron Delta Kappa
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia	

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request.