

# **Stefan Kac**

Tuba Player and Composer  
stefan [AT] stefankac [DOT] com  
<http://www.stefankac.com>

## **Education**

### **2013** *Master of Fine Arts, Performer-Composer*

*California Institute of the Arts Herb Alpert School of Music (Valencia, CA)*

Tuba with Doug Tornquist

Improvisation with Vinny Golia

Small Jazz Ensembles with Darek Oles, Joe LaBarbera, and Larry Koonse

Composition with Anne LeBaron and Michael Jon Fink

Just Intonation Methods with Wolfgang von Schweinitz

Performer and composer on 2013 CalArts Jazz recording project at Capitol Records  
and 2013 CalArts Rock Band with Orchestra project

### **2005** *Bachelor of Music, Tuba Performance*

*University of Minnesota School of Music (Minneapolis, MN)*

Tuba with Ross Tolbert (Minnesota Orchestra, ret.)

and David Werden (U.S. Coast Guard Band, ret.)

Studio Class with Thomas Ashworth

Jazz Ensembles with Phil Hey and Dean Sorenson

Wind Ensemble with Craig Kirchhoff

Brass Ensemble with David Baldwin

Performer and Composer for 2003 Jazz Ensembles/Dance Department collaboration

### **2003-04** *National Student Exchange*

*University of Northern Colorado (Greeley, CO)*

Tuba with Jason Byrnes

Improvisation and Jazz Ensembles with Dana Landry

*Additional tuba study and masterclasses with Stephen Campbell, James Gourlay, Martin Erickson,  
and Stephen Grove*

## **Teaching**

### **College Level**

#### **2013** *Director, Open Instrumentation Symphonic Jazz Band*

*Interim Session 2013, California Institute of the Arts Herb Alpert School of Music*

#### **2011-13** *Graduate Assistant, California Institute of the Arts Herb Alpert School of Music*

Counterpoint (Spring 2013)

Graduate Theory Review (Fall 2012)

Musicianship Skills D (Spring 2012)

Musicianship Skills A (Fall 2011)

teaching (cont.)

## High School and Middle School

- 2015-present** *Low Brass Sectional Coach and Private Lesson Instructor  
Anacapa and Cabrillo Middle School Bands (Ventura, CA)*
- 2015-16** *Guest Clinician, Notre Dame High School (Sherman Oaks, CA) and  
West Ranch High School (Stevenson Ranch, CA) Bands*
- 2011** *Director, Two Rivers Honors Jazz Band, and Festival Clinician/Adjudicator,  
Two Rivers Jazz Festival (Braham High School, Braham, MN)*
- 2009-11** *Clinician, Copper Street Brass Quintet Educational Outreach Programs  
(Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas)  
Clinics at Montana and North Dakota State Music Educators Conferences  
Private instrumental and composition instructor at Northeast (Minneapolis)  
Middle School and Woodbury (MN) High School*
- 2005-11** *Instructor of Low Brass (all ages and levels)  
West Bank School of Music (Minneapolis, MN)*

*Also extensive freelance experience as an instructor of low brass, composition, music theory, and jazz improvisation in Minneapolis/St. Paul (2005-11) and Los Angeles (2014-present), working primarily with high-school-aged students.*

## Primary Teaching Qualifications

Applied Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, and Bass Trombone  
Composition  
Tonal Theory  
Aural Skills  
Chamber Music  
Jazz Theory  
Jazz Improvisation  
Jazz Ensembles  
Free/Non-Idiomatic Improvisation

## Recognition

### Competitive Residencies/Workshops Attended

- 2012** *Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute Phase I Intensive  
American Composers Orchestra/Columbia University Center for Jazz Studies/UCLA  
Faculty: James Newton, Anthony Davis, Nicole Mitchell, Derek Bermel, Paul Chihara,  
Anne LeBaron, George E. Lewis*
- 2005** *Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Program, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C.  
Faculty: Kenny Barron, Curtis Fuller, Winard Harper, Chip Jackson, Carmen Lundy,  
Nathan Davis*

### Honors and Awards (Tuba)

- 2008** *International Tuba Euphonium Association (ITEA) Roger Bobo Award for Recording Excellence  
(Jazz/Rock/Fusion/Commercial Category) for Isolation*
- 2007** *Placed on Minnesota Orchestra Substitute List via Audition*

**recognition – honors and awards (tuba) (cont.)**

**2006** *Winner, ITEA Rich Matteson Jazz Competition*

**2005** *Winner, Tubonium (ITEA Upper Midwest Regional Conference) Solo Competition*

**2005** *Finalist, WAMSO (Minnesota Orchestra Volunteer Association) Young Artist Competition*  
Awarded WAMSO/St. Paul Civic Symphony Concerto Performance Opportunity and  
WAMSO/Schubert Club of St. Paul Recital Performance Opportunity

**Honors and Awards (Composer)**

**2010** *American Composers Forum Subito Grant*

**2010** *ITEA Harvey Phillips Award for Composition Excellence*  
(*Tuba Featured in Chamber Music Category*) for The “B” Series: B-1

**2006** *ITEA Harvey Phillips Award for Composition Excellence*  
(*Tuba Featured in Jazz/Rock/Fusion Category*) for Lights of Loveland

**2000 and 2001** *Winner, Zeitgeist Chamber Ensemble Eric Stokes Composition Contest*

**Activities**

**Tuba Soloist with Large Ensemble (\*denotes original composition)**

**2013** *The “C” Series: C-4\* with CalArts New Century Players*

**2013** *Concerto Piu Grosso Possibile\* with CalArts Orchestra*

**2005** *Tuba Concerto by John Williams with St. Paul Civic Symphony*

**2005** *“Birth of the Cool” Concert with Bethel University (St. Paul, MN) Jazz Ensembles*

**2004** *Celebration: Two And by Bob Brookmeyer*  
with University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab Band I

**2003** *Eccentric Dances\* with University of Minnesota Jazz Ensemble II*

**Selected Professional Performances and Venues**

**2015-present** *Hammerstein Musik Bavaria residency @ Jeanette’s Edelweiss Restaurant*  
(*Newbury Park, CA*)

**2015** *evilevilgeniusgeius West Coast Tour @ The Potentialist Workshop (Reno, NV),*  
*The Jazz Station (Eugene, OR), The Royal Room (Seattle, WA), Velo Cult (Portland, OR),*  
*Salt Lick (Oakland, CA), Dizzy’s (San Diego), Blue Whale (Los Angeles)*

**2015** *Hopscotch Opera, Chapter 8 (The Industry opera company, Los Angeles)*

**2015** *Jon Armstrong’s Burnt Hibiscus @ Angel City Jazz Festival (Los Angeles, CA)*

**2015** *Stefan Kac Series4 Quartet @ CurveLineSpace Gallery (Los Angeles, CA)*

**2014 and 2015** *Vinny Golia Septet @ Angel City Jazz Festival, Blue Whale (Los Angeles, CA)*

**2014** *Stefan Kac Series4 Quartet @ Jazz Central Studios (Minneapolis, MN)*

**2014** *Michael Mull Trio @ Vitello’s Restaurant (Studio City, CA)*

**selected professional performances and venues (cont.)**

- 2013-15** *Jon Armstrong Jazz Orchestra @ Blue Whale, Angel City Jazz Festival/Broad Stage*
- 2009-11** *Copper Street Brass Quintet @ numerous concert series, church services, elementary and secondary schools (Upper Midwest Region)*
- 2008-11** *Ingo Bethke Sextet @ Dakota Jazz Club, Artists Quarter, Kitty Cat Klub (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)*
- 2007-08** *Stefan Kac Quartet @ Dakota Jazz Club (Minneapolis, MN)*
- 2006-11** *Milo Fine Free Jazz Ensemble @ Homewood Studios, Acadia Cafe, Studio Z (Minneapolis, MN)*
- 2006-08** *Pan-Metropolitan Trio @ Dakota Jazz Club, McNally Smith College of Music, Acadia Cafe (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)*
- 2000-11** *Mouldy Figs/Pig's Eye Jazz Band/Minnesota Dixie @ numerous private functions (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)*

**Selected Recordings (performer) (\*denotes also composer/arranger)**

- 2015** *Bitter Human* (evilevilgeniusgenius, Orenda Records)
- 2014** *Farewell* (Jon Armstrong Jazz Orchestra, Orenda Records)
- 2012** *D minor/B♭ Major* (Michael Pisaro/Taku Sugimoto/The Dog Star Orchestra)
- 2010** *The Evolution of the Brass Quintet\** (The Copper Street Brass Quintet)
- 2010** *Christmas on Copper Street\** (The Copper Street Brass Quintet)
- 2009** *The Untenability of Sentience/More Wistful Tunes for the Sincere\** (The Milo Fine Free Jazz Ensemble)
- 2009** *Extended Play\** (The Copper Street Brass Quintet)
- 2009** *Ingo Bethke\** (Ingo Bethke)
- 2007** *Isolation\** (The Pan-Metropolitan Trio)
- 2006** *13* (Brian Setzer)
- 2005** *In Elven Lands* (The Fellowship)
- 2005** *Between Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (Mick Sterling)
- 2003-11** Session player for many accompanying recordings for Kjos Music Company  
*Standard of Excellence* and *Tradition of Excellence* method books  
(Minneapolis, MN and San Diego, CA)

**Selected Writings**

- 2012** *Open Minds Take on the Closed Door* (New Music Box)
- 2011** *Operating in the Affirmative* (stefankac.com)
- 2008** *A Tuba in the Jazz Band?* (stefankac.com)
- 2006-present** *Fickle Ears* (weblog with over 400 entries)

**Published Compositions (Print)**

**2007** *Lights of Loveland* (Tuba-Euphonium Press)

**2004** *Brass Quintet No. 3* (Brass Chamber Music Press)

**2003** *Serenade for Bass Tuba* (Tuba-Euphonium Press)

**2003** *Serenade for Euphonium* (Tuba-Euphonium Press)