

NATHAN TOKUNAGA

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EDUCATION

The New School, Class of 2029
Carlmont High School, Class of 2025

AWARDS

2026 Young Arts Winner
Jazz Clarinet
Jazz Aid Fund Commission Award
San Jose Jazz, 2025 Grantee
Jazz at the Ballroom Scholarship
Jazz at the Ballroom, 2023
Shape of Jazz to Come Award
Stanford Jazz Workshop, 2022
Outstanding Soloist Award
Stanford Jazz Workshop, 2022
Superior, Solos & Ensembles
CMEA Bay Section, 2019

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Jazz Academy
Jazz at Lincoln Center
Class of 2025, Class of 2024
Stanford Jazz Workshop
Jazz Camp, 2022
Jazz Institute, 2021

FESTIVALS

Caramoor Jazz Festival
Hot Jazz Jubilee, Sacramento
Healdsburg Jazz Festival
Jazz on the Hill Festival
Jazzaffair, Three Rivers
Monterey Jazz Bash by the Bay
San Diego Jazz Festival

BANDLEADER

Nathan Tokunaga Duo–Sextet
Since November 2022
Nathan's Fearless Five
Since October 2021
Woodwind Quintet, Carlmont HS
March 2023, 2024

SELECTED ENSEMBLES

- The New School Studio Big Band, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Stanford Jazz's Miles Ahead Big Band, Lead Alto
- Peninsula Youth Orchestra, Principal Clarinet
- College of San Mateo Big Band, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Kyle Athayde Dance Party, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Stanford Jazz Orchestra, Clarinet and Alto Sax
- Alex Mendham Orchestra, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Jazz at Lincoln Center's Summer Jazz Academy, Clark Terry Big Band directed by Todd Stoll, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Jazz at Lincoln Center's Summer Jazz Academy, Milt Hinton Big Band directed by Rodney Whitaker, Tenor Sax and Clarinet
- Stanford Jazz Earshot Combo directed by Wycliffe Gordon
- Advanced Funk Ensemble, California Jazz Conservatory
- Nick Rossi's Jazzopatens: an Ellingtonia Unit
- Cafe Borrone All-Stars since 2021

SELECTED PERFORMANCES (400 gigs to date)

- Aaron Johnson Boplicity, Smalls Jazz Club, 2025
- Lindy Focus Big Band and Small Ensembles, Dec 2024 & Dec 2025
- Gunhild Carling Band, Biscuits & Blues, Dec 2024
- Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? Bing Concert Hall, Oct & Apr 2024
- The EarRegulars, The Ear Inn, 2024 & 2025
- Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, Birdland Theatre, 2024 & 2025
- Nathan Tokunaga Quintet, Meyhouse Jazz Club, Oct 2024
- Nathan Tokunaga Quartet, San Francisco Bal Haus, Aug & Apr 2024
- Festival bands, private jazz parties, weddings, galas, private events
- Peninsula Youth Orchestra, Dvorak Hall, Prague, Jun 2024

ALBUMS

- *All the Strings You Are*, Featured Soloist with Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Big Band, to be released in 2026
- *Memories of You*, Nathan's Fearless Five, to be released in 2025
- *Jazz Is My Lifestyle*, Gunhild Carling Big Band, Aug 2024. *Downbeat* Featured Music, FYC for Grammy®
- *Tribute to the Great Ray Ronnei*, Huntington Palace Jazz Band, 2023
- *The Firehouse Five Tribute*, Backdraft Jazz Band, 2023

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY

- Invited to headline the city of Belmont's centennial celebration in 2026
- Served as Entertainers at non-profit Old Skool Cafe, since 2021
- Appointed as Musicians in Residence, Rinconada Library, since 2022
- Entertained at non-profit Asian Health Services VIP Gala, 2024, 2023
- Performed at Chinatown Music Festival, San Francisco, Aug 2022
- Showcased at Stanford Jazz's Donor Appreciation Concert, May 2022
- Co-taught Traditional Jazz Workshop for Youths, May 2022
- Fundraised for New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, Oct 2021
- Produced two live Zoom concerts for teachers, Feb & Mar 2021