
MATT ULERY BASSIST/COMPOSER/EDUCATOR

Matt Ulery

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www.mattulery.com

www.woolgatheringrecords.com

312-523-4484

EDUCATION

Master of Music: DePaul University Chicago, Illinois 2011-2013

Bachelor of Music: Roosevelt University Chicago Illinois 2000-2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Loyola University Department of Fine and Performing Arts

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF BASS, COMPOSITION, IMPROVISATION, JAZZ
ENSEMBLES 2011-PRESENT

Teaches applied bass (string bass and electric bass guitar), applied composition,
composition classes, jazz composition classes, jazz improvisation classes, jazz
combos, and jazz ensemble.

Director/Coordinator of Jazz Combos 2019 - present Director of Jazz Ensemble 2021
- present

Northeastern Illinois University Department of Music and Dance

BASS INSTRUCTOR

Teaches applied bass (string bass and electric bass guitar) 2021-present

Guest Clinician

MASTER CLASSES IN JAZZ, IMPROVISATION, HISTORY,
BASS, COMPOSITION, AND MUSIC PHILOSOPHY

Carnegie Mellon University
Cornell University
National Conservatory of
Music in Mexico City

University of Richmond
Marshall University
Triton College
Northern Illinois University
North Eastern Illinois
University
DePaul University
Roosevelt University
Chicago State University
Elgin Community College
Empire State College

Grand Valley State University
Ithaca College and High
School
Lewis University
New Trier High School
Princeton University

Schaumburg High School

SUNY-Fredonia

The Francis Parker School

University of Pittsburgh
Loyola University

Chicago Guimaraes (Portugal)
Jazz Festival

University of Illinois Chicago

University of Illinois

Whitworth University

Depauw University

Mentor for the Jazz Institute
of Chicago Jazz Links
Fellowship program 2020 and
2021

Composer/Bandleader/Recording Artist

ALBUMS COMPOSED, PRODUCED AND RELEASED AS A LEADER/COMPOSER – 2008-PRESENT

"Music Box Ballerina" – Matt Ulery's "Loom" (chamber jazz septet)- Woolgathering Records 2008

"Themes and Scenes" – Matt Ulery (cinema and orchestra) - Woolgathering Records 2009

"The Queen" 10 inch vinyl single – Whistler Records 2010

"Flora.Fauna.Fervor." – Matt Ulery's "Loom" (chamber jazz septet) - 482 Music January 2011

"By a Little Light" (double CD) - Matt Ulery (14 piece chamber jazz ensemble) - Greenleaf Music 2012

"Wake an Echo" - Matt Ulery's Loom (jazz quintet) Greenleaf Music July 2013

"In the Ivory" (double CD) - Matt Ulery (14 piece chamber jazz ensemble) - Greenleaf Music 2014

"Festival" (double vinyl) - Matt Ulery's Loom/Large (jazz big band and quintet) Woolgathering Records October 2016

"Sifting Stars" (vinyl/CD) - Matt Ulery's Sifting Stars Orchestra and Axiom Brass (quintet) - Woolgathering Records October 2018

"Wonderment" (CD) - Matt Ulery | Zach Brock | Jon Deitemyer (violin, bass, drums trio) - Woolgathering Records July 2019

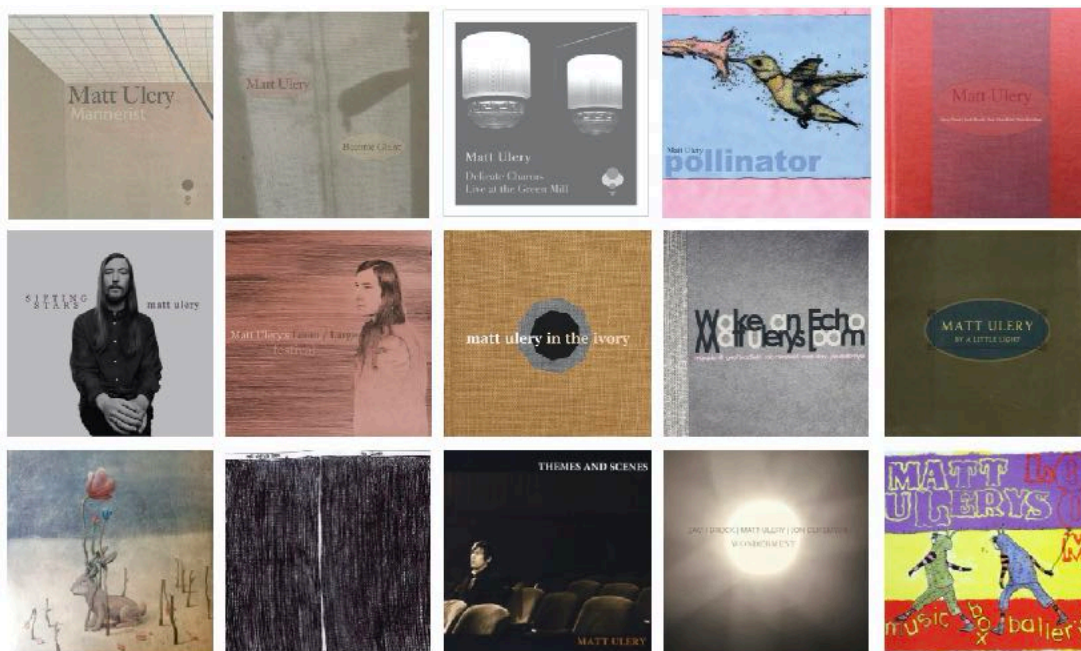
"Delicate Charms" (vinyl/CD) - Matt Ulery's Delicate Charms (chamber jazz quintet) - Woolgathering Records October 2019

"Pollinator" (vinyl/CD) - Matt Ulery's Pollinator (jazz brass sextet) - Woolgathering Records May 2020

"Delicate Charms Live at the Green Mill" (CD) - Matt Ulery's Delicate Charms (chamber jazz quintet) - Woolgathering Records October 2021

"Become Giant" (CD) - Matt Ulery's Become Giant (string sextet+drums) - Woolgathering Records October 2022

"Mannerist" (vinyl/CD) - Matt Ulery's Mannerist 11 (11 piece chamber jazz orchestra) - Woolgathering Records forthcoming May 2023



Composition

15 ALBUMS OF ORIGINAL MUSIC

MUSICAL COMPOSITION COMMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM

Eighth Blackbird, Miami String Quartet, New Millennium Orchestra of Chicago, Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Festival of Lexington, Axiom Brass, Wild Belle, Guimaraes (Portugal) Jazz Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Projeto Arcomusical, Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition, as well as string and brass/wind arrangements for dozens of individual singer-songwriters and rock/pop bands.

Performance

BASSIST (DOUBLE BASS, ELECTRIC BASS, TUBA/SOUSAPHONE)

1996-PRESENT

Highly in-demand freelance bassist in Chicago performing and recording most styles of music, specializing in all jazz styles. Tours domestically and internationally with countless bands and ensembles. Performed in countless venues as a bandleader and/or collaborator including but certainly not limited to Carnegie Hall, NPR Tiny Desk, NYC Winter Jazz Festival, Chicago Orchestra Hall, Millennium Park Pritzker Pavillion, Chicago Cultural Center, The Krannert Center, Jazz Showcase, The Metro, The Green Mill, Chicago Jazz Festival, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Chicago World Music Festival, Vancouver Jazz Festival, Guimaraes Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Ear Taxi Festival, Chicago Humanities Festival, Euro Jazz Mexico, and so many more....

Artist Awards Received

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events *Esteemed Artist Award/Grant* - 2021

Illinois Arts Council - Artist Fellowship in Music Improvisation - 2021

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Individual Artist Grant - 2018

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Individual Artist Grant - 2015

Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists 2013

New Music USA Composers Assistance Program - Recording Award 2011

Chicago Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) Grant 2010

Chicago Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) Grant 2009

Chicago Community Arts Assistance Program (CAAP) Grant 2008

Some Recent artistic critical acclaim

Top 50 Favorite Albums Of 2012 (all genres) by NPR Music

Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2012 by NPR's A Blog Supreme

Top 10 Albums of 2012 by Chicago Tribune

4 1/2 Stars - Downbeat

4 1/2 Stars from All About Jazz August 2019

Rising Star Bassist according to Downbeat July 2022

Rising Star Bassist according to Downbeat July 2019

Rising Star Composer according to Downbeat July 2017

"Coming on the heels of 2019's outstanding trio outing Wonderment (Woolgathering Records) with violinist Zach Brock and drummer Jon Deitemyer, Delicate Charms is a four and a half star recording if ever one was." - ALL ABOUT JAZZ

"This is music of Brisk Intelligence with an almost off-putting abundance of composure...with frictionless access to great chunks of classical minimalism, atmospheric indie-rock, and harmonically astute post bob." - NEW YORK TIMES

"Delicate Charms" is gorgeous. Ulery's unique vision of subtle grandiosity is let fly. It is texturally layered and emotionally swollen yet maintains a refined elegance; dense yet crystal-clear. - UK VIBE

"By the end of the album you'll realize this is Matt Ulery's harmonic world, and we just live in it." - 33THIRD (BEST OF 2019)

"However complex an Ulery composition is, its mellifluous melodicism ensures it communicates with immediacy." - TEXTURA (Best of 2019)

"With each release, Ulery's vision grows and matures—making him one of the most intrepid and innovative contemporary musicians. The mellifluous and intricate Delicate Charms is thought-provoking and charmingly sophisticated. It is novel, complex yet accessible, which, together with its singular style, are the makings of an instant classic." - CHICAGO JAZZ MAGAZINE

"one of the most hauntingly beautiful recordings of this year — or any other. This magical, profoundly musical release embraces more aesthetic influences than one might have thought a cohesive recording could." - CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"a masterpiece of grand vision and soaring compositions." - E-MUSIC

"It's an unselfconsciously beautiful, poignant, lavish double-cd suite and one of the best albums of the year." - NEW YORK MUSIC DAILY

"In the Ivory is one of the glorious faces of musical diversity in the current scene." - POP MATTERS

“Listen to orchestrated jazz-pop music from a double album, “In the Ivory” by Chicago-based bassist/composer Matt Ulery, featuring the chamber group eighth blackbird.” - WNYC NEW SOUNDS

“In The Ivory is an outstanding chamber jazz album, and it wants the whole world to know it” - DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE (4 Star Review)

“Once again, Ulery has produced a double album spotlighting more than a dozen jazz and classical players, his compositions at once radiantly lyrical and impeccably detailed, carefully crafted and subtly orchestrated. In the Ivory fulfills the promise of “By a Little Light,” establishing that Ulery was no one-hit wonder and that he still has a great deal to say in a chamber-jazz idiom of his own making.” - CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“In the last few years Chicago bassist and composer Matt Ulery has emerged as one of the most sophisticated, prolific, and versatile figures in town, leading the postbop quintet Loom and composing elegant chamber music for a circle of musicians including members of Eighth Blackbird” - CHICAGO READER (preview)

“Ambitious in scope and meticulously composed, In The Ivory showcases Ulery’s ability to seamlessly weave together one memorable melody after another...”

-UTNE READER

“Matt Ulery has begun to develop in a far different way than fellow bassists. Rather than being the time-keeping creator of contrapuntal lines, Ulery is emerging as a composer.”

-PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

“Matt Ulery continues to mature as a composer, arranger and musician – he’s a major talent and a singular voice.”

- STEP TEMPEST

“...flows with extravagant elegance, from the intimate chamberlike pieces to the beautiful vocal work to the heart-racing pulse of his minimalist compositions whose concentric phrases spin with giddy centrifugal force. -

CHICAGO READER

“In the Ivory is perhaps the fullest expression of Ulery’s aesthetic to date.”

– DETROIT FREE PRESS

