

Lefteris Kordis, DMA Pianist, Composer, Associate Professor, Ear Training, Berklee College of Music

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EDUCATION

- New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA May 2012
Doctor of Musical Arts. Major in Jazz Piano Performance
Minor in Music Theory
Teachers/mentors: Charlie Banacos, Danilo Pérez, Michael Gandolfi

Dissertation advisor: Gregory E. Smith, PhD (Harvard University)
- New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA 2004
Master of Music in Jazz Studies, Piano (with academic honors)
Teachers: Bob Brookmeyer, Steve Lacy, Frank Carlberg, Michael Cain
- Ionian University**, Corfu, Greece 2002
Bachelor of Music (Five-year program)
Teacher/Mentor: Dimos Dimitriadis
- Berklee College of Music**, Boston, MA Aug. 2000
Five-Week summer program in Jazz Piano Performance and Composition
Main teacher/mentor: Frank Carlberg
- National Conservatory of Athens**, Athens, Greece 1996
Classical Piano Performance, Music Theory
- Advanced Classical Piano Performance
Teacher: Eva Stange (lifelong student of [Paul Badura Skoda](#))
 - Advanced Tonal Practice Studies (Part Writing, Counterpoint, Solfège)
Teacher: Stella Makryianni
- Experimental Music Gymnasium & High-School of Pallini**, Athens, Greece 1989 - 1995
Middle and high-school curriculum plus music and fine arts in extended hours.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Faculty Development Recording Grant 2020
Ruth Shapiro Memorial Scholarship 2004-07
MM with Academic Honors, NEC 2004
Dean's List, NEC 2003
Alexander Onassis Foundation Scholarship 2003
Gerondelis Scholarship 2003
Fulbright Award 2002
Representative student of Greece at the International Association
of Jazz Schools (IASJ) Forum in Helsinki, Finland 2002
Berklee College of Music Scholarship 2001
Scholarship by the Ionian University to attend Berklee College of Music 2000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Berklee College of Music, Boston MA <u>Associate Professor, Ear Training</u>	Fall 2016 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of musicianship (sight-singing, dictation, rhythmic execution), using games, improvisation, kinesthetics, film-scoring, and composition. 	
Berklee Global Jazz Institute, Boston <u>Associate Professor, Global Jazz</u>	Fall 2016 – Summer 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coached graduate and undergrad. level ensembles; taught jazz history, analysis and performance course; direct a forum/workshop with emphasis on ear and rhythm through a cross-disciplinary, multi-genre, individualized, and holistic approach. 	
Ionian University, Music Department, Corfu Greece <u>Co-Director of the “Aqua Jazz” Workshop</u>	Nov 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and directed a bridge program for student-level Jazz and Greek Folk musicians. Workshops, ensembles, lectures, theory and kinesthetic classes, two concerts and two jam sessions (one jazz and one folk). 	
New England Conservatory, Boston, MA <u>Adjunct Faculty, Instructor, Music Theory, ‘Byzantine Music’</u>	Spring 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed curriculum for MTHY course on the theory and practice of Byzantine music (323A.D. to 1800’s). 	
<u>Adjunct Faculty, Instructor, Jazz Department, ‘Jazz Styles: Improvisation’</u>	Fall 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspired by Allan Chase’s course, developed and taught graduate course. Transcriptions, Analysis, History, and Performance activities. 	
<u>Teaching Fellow, Instr., MHST, ‘Music of Greece: From Homer to Xenakis’</u>	Spring 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed curriculum on Greek music from ancient Greek music theory, Byzantine chant, Demotic, Rebetika, and Greek Modernist/Avant-Garde. 	
<u>Teaching Fellow, Instructor, Music History, ‘The Post Bebop Era, 1949-61’</u>	Fall 2011 & Fall 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed curriculum for course on the Post-War jazz scene in America and organized two guest masterclasses with Sheila Jordan. 	
<u>Teaching Fellow, Instructor, ‘Solfège I and II’, ‘Tonal Practice, all levels’</u>	2008-2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of musicianship (sight-singing, ear-training, rhythmic execution), and basic knowledge of four-part harmony and two-part counterpoint. 	
<u>Teaching Fellow, Instructor, Music Theory, ‘Piano for Non-Majors’</u>	2006-2007
<u>Teaching Assistant, Music History, ‘Music of Turkey’</u>	Spring 2007
<u>Teaching Assistant, ‘Graduate Jazz Theory and Ear Training’</u>	Fall 2006
<u>Guest Instructor, NEC Jazz Ensembles</u>	2006-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked on obscure standards from the 1950’s - 60’s and free improv. 	
<u>Teaching Assistant, ‘Graduate Third-Stream Ear Training,’ ‘Jazz Composition and Arranging’</u>	2005 & 07
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught half of Frank Carlberg’s class and filled in when needed. 	
<u>Instructor, ‘Keyboard Harmony I, II, III’ (all levels)</u>	2005–2010

- New England Conservatory Preparatory School**, Boston, MA 2014 - 2015
- Instructor, Music Theory and Composition
- University of Rhode Island**, Kingston, RI 2012
- Jazz Piano Instructor. Taught one-on-one high school level students and coached one jazz combo.
- University of Massachusetts**, Boston, MA 2007 & 2009
- Visiting Professor. Taught History of Western Music and one-on-one piano students.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- (Jazz) [Duo with George Garzone](#), Port City Blue, Portland, Maine 2019
- (Jazz) Jay Clayton Quartet, Corfu Jazz World 2019
- (Jazz/Exp) [Duo with Edmar Colon](#), Corfu Jazz World 2019
- (Mediterranean Jazz) [Lefteris Kordis Octet](#), Athens Epidaurus Festival 2018
- (Interdisciplinary) [BGII Green ens, "A Love Supreme" and Shakespeare, BPC](#) 2018
- (Multi-genre) Carnegie Hall, Featured pianist for the Gabby Awards Ceremony 2017
- (Jazz) Lefteris Kordis Jazz Quintet, International Panama Jazz Festival 2017
- (Mediterranean Jazz) [Lefteris Kordis Quartet, Corfu Jazz World](#) 2017
- (Jazz) [Lefteris Kordis trio \(Lockwood-Kocharyan\)](#), Beat Brasserie & Beehive, Boston 2008-19
- (Jazz) Roni Eytan - Lefteris Kordis Quartet, Toronto Jazz Festival 2016
- (Jazz) Lefteris Kordis Jazz Sextet, Zante Jazz Festival 2016
- (Jazz) vocalist Danielle Freeman - The Shapeshifter Lab, Brooklyn, NY 2013
- (Greek Folk) trio [Synavlis](#) - Blanche M. Touhill Perf. Art Ctr, St. Louis, Missouri 2012
- (Jazz) bassist Petros Klampanis and saxophonist Greg Osby - Cornelia Str Café, NYC 2007-2018
- (Jazz/Experimental) Bebop Trio - iBeam, Brooklyn, NY 2011
- (Jazz) [Panayota Haloulakou 4tet](#) - Caspian Monday Music Festival, Greensboro, VT 2011-2012
- (Jazz/Exp) Bebop Trio - Harvard Radio Broadcast (WHRB) 2011
- (Greek Folk) Panayotis Lalezas, Berklee and multiple Tours in rural Greece 2016-2019
- (Jazz) Ayn Insetto Jazz Orchestra – Berklee Performance Center 2010-2013
- (Jazz) Dimitris Tsakas Quartet - Tinos Jazz Festival, Greece 2010
- (Israeli Pop) Tammy Scheffer - Middlebury College, VT 2010
- (Jazz) Darryl Harper "Stories in Real Time" cd release - Scullers Jazz Club, Boston 2009
- (Jazz/Exp) [Darryl Harper C3 Project](#) - Virginia Commonwealth University 2009
- (Jazz/Exp) Lefteris Kordis piano trio - WGBH Fraser Performance Studio, Boston 2009
- (Jazz) Sheila Jordan Quintet - Ionian Jazz Concerts, Corfu, Greece July 2007
- (Contemporary) [D. Harper & dancer Li Chiao Ping](#) - Overture Arts Cntr, Madison, WI Jan. 2007
- (Jazz) Joe Lovano, Steve Lacy – Jordan Hall, Boston, MA 2003
- (Jazz/Argentinian/Brazilian) Sofia Rei Quintet - Ryles Jazz Club, Cambridge, MA 2003-12
- (Experimental) Organized Concert - Harvard Elliot House Library, Cambridge, MA Mar. 2003
- (Jazz) Umo Jazz Club & Jututuba Jazz Club, Helsinki, Finland July 2002

RELATED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (Other than Jazz)

Contemporary Classical Music

Performed on piano. Works performed include works by Yusef Lateef, James Grant, Astor Piazzolla, Ayn Insetto [Playtime](#), (premiere), Greg Bullen *Jazz Clarinet Quartet* (prem), John Mallia [Crevice_sky](#) (prem) for prepared piano, koto, sho, shamisen, saxophone, guitar, and Gene Coleman *Andolangen* (requires improvisation and extended piano techniques) for prepared piano, Japanese folk instruments, and video.

Gospel Music

Performed on organ, keyboards, piano and directed the Women's Gospel choir at the African Methodist Episcopal ZION Church in Cambridge (2014-2018), and Columbus Ave, Boston (2018-19). Currently serving at the Berachah church in Dorchester as sub. Repertoire includes hymns, spirituals, and modern Gospel.

Western Classical Music

Performed on piano. Works performed include selected Mozart *Sonatas*, Beethoven *Sonatas* and *Rondo A Capriccio*, Bach *Preludes and Fugues*, Chopin *Etudes* and *Nocturnes*, Brahms *Two Rhapsodies*, Rachmaninoff *Prelude Op. 32, No.12*, and Gershwin *Three Preludes*. Repertoire consists of over 50 works.

South American (Tangos, Brazilian Choros and Bossa Novas, Chacareras)

Pianist and arranger for various quintets emphasizing on the music of Astor Piazzolla. Former member of the Sofia Rei Argentinian folk-jazz group.

Greek Folklore

Performed on accordion, laouto, oud, keyboards (Korg Σ, Korg Kronos, and PA4x), and tamboura (saz). Venues include concert halls, festivals, and restaurants in Europe and the US. Repertoire exceeds 2000 songs (all by memory and in all keys).

Byzantine music

Sang hymns as a choir member in various churches and concert halls.

Trumpet Performance

Performed with marching bands, Jazz Big Bands (Orpheus Mammelo and Ionian Jazz Ensemble), professional Greek pop singers (Fivos Delivorias, Dionysis Savvopoulos), small Jazz ensembles, Boston's [Greek Music Ensemble](#), and various Brass quartets.

DISCOGRAPHY (selected)leader or co-leader and producer

Aquarelles , Inner Circle Music (to be released)	2020-21
Mediterrana , Lefteris Kordis, Inner Circle Music	2016
Beehive Spirit , Lefteris Kordis Trio, (not released yet)	2014
Songs for Aesop's Fables , Lefteris Kordis, Inner Circle Music	2012
Standards , Panayota Haloulakou & Lefteris Kordis Duo	2011
The Bebop Trio , Kordis/Spiegelman/Thorvaldsson, Creative Nations Music	2007
Oneirographia , Lefteris Kordis (self-produced)	2005

music producer and/or director and performer

Secret Life: The Music of Makis Emmanuelidis , Lefteris Kordis arranger, pianist and co-producer	2016-17
An Evening of Rebetika , Lefteris Kordis & Panayota Haloulakou: research, transcriptions, and direction of a 12-piece Greek Rebetiko ensemble.	2010
Shapes of Nature , George Lernis	2010

side-musician (selected records – for full discography see website)

The Need's Got To Be So Deep , Darryl Harper, Hipnotic Records	2014
What's Next? , Mehmet Ali Sanlikol	2012
Multitude , Paolo Lattanzi (feat. Robin Eubanks), Silta Records	2009
The New Imperial , Julien Kasper, Nugene Records (UK)	2006
Growing Up , Dimitry Tsakas, Faos Music, (GR)	2004
IASJ 2002 , produced by Dave Liebman, Arabia Records	2002

TALKS, SEMINARS, and other MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

- [Maliotis Cultural Center](#), Boston MA** 2018-present
[Director of Music Programs](#)
 Curated two Music Festivals and
 Six-week long Greek Music Educational Series (March – May 2019)
 Topics on Greek music. Presenters are professors/performers from
 Harvard University, MIT, Tufts University, Berklee College of Music, and
 Queens College (Aaron Copland School of music)
- International Panama Jazz Festival** 2016-18
 Three clinics/master classes on:
- Music and Colors: Ear Training, Improvisation, Composition, Film-scoring, Reharmonization.
 - Topics in Jazz and Folklore Music
 - Piano Technique and Physiology (Taubman, Whiteside, Banacos)
- International Association of Jazz Schools, Berklee College of Music** 2016
- Presentation of the Aqua Jazz program at the IASJ annual conference.
- [Aqua Jazz program](#), Ionian University, Corfu, Greece** 2015
- Co-Directed a five-day program which brought together Greek Folk musicians with jazz improvisers and composers. 48 participants and 8 faculty members. Lectures, seminars, workshops, two concerts and two jam sessions (one jazz and one folk), and four ensembles.
- Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum, NEC** 2011-12
- Organized Forum for graduate students for all disciplines in Spring 2011 and Spring 2012. Also served as committee member in both years.
- D.R. Finch Foundation, Allston, MA** 2006-7
- Board member. Engaged in lecture/performances and outreach programs.
- Arranger and Transcriber for the *Metropole* Symphony Orchestra, Holland** 2008-09
- Transcribed orchestral pieces, the scores of which are not available or are out of print and arranged/adapted them for the instrumentation of this particular orchestra.

SELECTED PAPERS

- [Charlie Banacos's Pedagogy of Jazz Improvisation](#) (dissertation)
- Bebop, Democracy, and the Utopia
- The Multi-track Recordings of [Lennie Tristano](#)
- Graph Score Analysis of György Ligeti: *Fanfares* Piano Etude No4, book I
- [Haydn's Scherzo from String Quartet, Op.33, No.5, and the Enlightenment Ideal](#)
- Lennie Tristano's Quintet Free Collective Improvisation *Intuition* (1949) (includes full transcription and spectrograph analysis)
- [Raga Maru Bihag: Themes and Variations, full transcription and analysis of an 11-minute performance by Ravi Shankar](#)
- Lennie Tristano's *April*: The process of Re-Composition based on *I'll Remember April* by D.Raye and G. De Paul
- Analysis of Colin McPhee's version on Balinese traditional piece *Pemoengkah* (includes graph-score analysis)
- Oliver Messiaen's 8th Movement from the *Quartet for the End of Time*

REFERENCES/TEACHING OBSERVATIONS

Allan Chase, Chair, Ear Training, Berklee College of Music
Telephone: 617-747-2853, Email: aschase@berklee.edu

Efstratios Minakakis, Composition, Music Theory, Contemporary Improvisation, Faculty, New England Conservatory
Telephone: 617-216-1812, Email: Efstratios.Minakakis@necmusic.edu

Joe Morris, Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation, Faculty, New England Conservatory & Longy School of Music
Telephone: 203-494-7306. Email: ritirec@comcast.net

Ran Blake, Chair Emeritus, Contemporary Improvisation, New England Conservatory, Email: ran@ranblake.com

Late **Steve Lacy**, Former Faculty (2002-04), Jazz Studies, NEC

Late **Bob Brookmeyer**, Former Faculty, Jazz Studies, NEC

QUOTES from JAZZ MASTERS and Major MEDIA

"A pianist with skill, touch, musicality and a gift for making songs from songs. Plus, he can swing! Give a listen"
~ Bob Brookmeyer

"A young pianist & composer who has demonstrated an exceptional creativity, in both his playing & his writing, as well as showing us all, his very strong commitment & motivation to aim for high musical goals. Talent like his is rare."
~ Steve Lacy

"In these times, when we are in great need of fresh examples of intercultural dialogue, Lefteris Kordis's music is an abundant source of inspiration."
~ Danilo Pérez

"Some 70 years after Dizzy Gillespie incorporated Afro Cuban rhythms into the big-band context, jazz today regularly takes its cue from global musical traditions. A prime example is the colorful, highly intelligent blend of modern jazz elements and aspects of Mediterranean folk-song found on Mediterrana"
-- Michael Harris, **DownBeat** Magazine (Dec 1, 2016) -- 4 stars

"Your ears will quickly recognize that you are listening to a master of jazz, and of musical performance that both captivates and intrigues, especially on tunes like my personal favorite, the majestic 9:24 "Yota"
~ Rotcod Zzaj (rotcodzzaj.com, Aug 2016)

"Kordis made his miracle! [...] He carries multi-genre and multi-cultural musical influences, all of which are essential to be a creative, complete and multi-dimensional musician."
~ Dimitris Trikas (popaganda.gr - December 14, 2014)

"Pianist Kordis is a masterful musician whose nimble mind can perform the most amazing spontaneous improvisations on any given theme, lightning fast in his fingering and always in precise coordination with the singer and others. He is quite a phenomenon!"
~ David K. Rodgers (Hardwick Gazette, August 17, 2011)

