

DARREN KRAMER

Trombonist • Composer • Producer • Educator • Speaker

ElektroHornz.com

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SUMMARY

Darren Kramer is a professional trombonist, composer, music producer, educator, and motivational speaker who has performed throughout the world as trombonist with diverse artists Matchbox Twenty, Garth Brooks, Marc Anthony, Tom Jones, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies with Mercer Ellington. Kramer is a prolific composer having recorded six original CDs and has arranged over 400 songs which feature Grammy Award-winning artists such as Michael Brecker and Jerry Hey. Kramer grew up in a musical family in Colorado, graduated from University of Miami, and is an XO Brass Artist and Ableton Certified Trainer who now creatively combines live acoustic instruments with music technology. Kramer shares his vast knowledge from 40 years of extensive performing and teaching experience via his innovative group ElektroHornz, as well as his music and wellness podcast Sonic Tonic Experience.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

ElektroHornz Experience: Innovator, Founder & CEO 2019-Present

A Super-Charged Fusion of Live Horns & Music Technology
for an Ultramodern Multimedia Experience of Excellence & Innovation

Sonic Tonic Experience Podcast: Founder & Host 2020-Present

Music Collaboration & Wellness Podcast with World-Class Musicians

Trombonology Basics 1 & 2: Course Creator & Videographer/Editor 2017

Online Trombone Courses: 10 Lessons w Video, Text, History, Listening, Quizzes, Final

DKO Lessons: Founder & CEO: 2016-22

Online Video Lessons Subscription Service for Trombone, Jazz & Music Technology

XO Brass Artist 2016-Present

Ableton Certified Trainer 2016-Present

TheGigEasy Complete Music Solutions for iPad: Co-Founder & CEO 2010-16

Apple iPad Mic Stand Mount & Apple iOS Music Reader App

DJ DKO Electric Trombone DJ: Inventor 2008-2018

Solo performance innovation that pushes boundaries of the typical trombone stereotype and that of the traditional DJ. Inventor Elec Trb Ableton MIDI Controller

DKO Darren Kramer Organization: Founder & CEO 1998-2023

Concerts, Clinics, Commissions, 400 Charts, 6 CDs

TEACHING HISTORY

Colorado State University Jazz Faculty 2024 Spring - Present

Instructor of Jazz Trombone

University of Denver Jazz Faculty 2002-2007

Jazz Trombone Adjunct Professor

Student Jazz Combos Instructor

Songwriting & CD Production Classes

Member of Jazz Faculty Ensemble - Directed by Malcolm Lynn Baker

Masterclasses / Clinics 2001-Present

WY All-State Jazz Band Co-Director 2023

Get Funk'd Up Workshops 2019

Hundreds of Universities, High Schools and Middle Schools

...Univ of Miami, Georgia Tech, USC, UI, New Trier HS, Rio Americano HS, etc

Jazz Festival Adjudicator 2001-Present

Reno, UNC/Greeley, Lionel Hampton, Mile High, Pikes Peak, Organ Mtn, etc

Summer Camps / Workshops 2003-Present

Music at the Summit, DU Jazz Camp, Get Funk'd Up, Get Trombonified, etc

Residency @ The Jazz School - Christchurch, NZ April-May 2002

Denver Ableton User Group Organizer 2016-Present

Private Lessons 1993-Present

Denver, NYC, Las Vegas

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Conference on World Affairs - CU Boulder, CO 2024

TEDxBoulder "Trombonology" - Boulder, CO 2023

Sonic Bloom Festival "Electrify Your Instrument" - Denver, CO 2021

ASMAM "Arranging for a Modern Horn Section" w Jerry Hey - LA, CA 2020

JEN Jazz Education Network "Modernize Your Jazz" - New Orleans, LA 2020

CMEA Colorado Music Educators Association - Colo Spgs, CO 2013, 2017, 2019

TMEA Texas Music Educators Assoc "12 Essential iPad Music Apps"- San Antonio, TX 2017

Ableton User Groups - San Francisco, Atlanta, Phoenix, Honolulu 2017

NAMM National Association of Music Merchants "Ableton Live" - Anaheim, CA 2015

ITF Int'l Trombone Festival "Electric Trb" - Salt Lake City, UT 2008, Columbus, GA 2013

MacWorld "TheGigEasy Complete Solutions for iPad" Exhibitor 2013

TMEA "TheGigEasy Complete Solutions for iPad" Exhibitor- San Antonio, TX 2013-14

Midwest Band Clinic "TheGigEasy Complete Solutions for iPad" Exhibitor 2012-13

NAMM "TheGigEasy Complete Solutions for iPad" Exhibitor - Nashville, TN 2012-13

NAMM "TheGigEasy Complete Solutions for iPad" Exhibitor - Anaheim, CA 2011-14

IAJE International Association of Jazz Education "Ableton Live" - Toronto, Canada 2008

IAJE DKO Band Performance w/ special guest Eric Marienthal - Long Beach, CA 2005

ACHIEVEMENTS

International Tours

Matchbox Twenty – Producer Matthew Serletic 2000-2001
Tom Jones – Musical Director Brian Monroney 1999-2000
Tommy Dorsey Orchestra – Bandleader Buddy Morrow 1998
Sophisticated Ladies European B'way Tour – Conductor Mercer Ellington 1990, 1992

Television Shows

CO Music Hall of Fame Tribute to Caribou Ranch feat G.Brooks, J.Walsh, A. Grant 2017 - Denver CO
Latin Grammys Person of the Year “Marc Anthony” 2016 - Las Vegas NV
DKO Darren Kramer Organization Channel 7 News 2002 - Denver CO
VH-1 Storytellers “Matchbox Twenty” 2001 - NY, NY
The Tonight Show with Jay Leno “Matchbox Twenty” 2001 - Hollywood, CA
The Late Show with David Letterman “Matchbox Twenty” 2001 - NY, NY
The Rosie O'Donnell Show “Matchbox Twenty” 2001 - NY, NY
Parkinson's “Tom Jones” (BBC) 2000 - London UK
VH-1 Men Strike Back "Tom Jones" 2000 - NY, NY
The Today Show “McDonald's All-American HS Marching Band” 1986 NY, NY
Channel 4 “Youth On The Move” 1986 - Denver, CO

Original CD Recordings

“Plugin & Recharge” ElektroHornz ©2024
“Circuit Breaker” ElekTrio ©2024
“Power Up” ElektroHornz ©2024
“Reboot: The DKO Remixes” ElektroHornz ©2024
“The Best of 25 Years” DKO ©2023
“Beyond The Boneyard” DJ DKO ©2012
“Electric Quartet” DKO ©2007
“In The Now” DKO ©2005
“Quench!” DKO ©2003
“DKO” DKO ©1998

Performed and/or Recorded

Rob Thomas/Matchbox Twenty, Garth Brooks, Marc Anthony, Tom Jones, Take 6,
Dizzy Gillespie, Mercer Ellington, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Wayne Bergeron,
Jerry Hey, Gary Grant, Eric Marienthal, Darius Rucker, Tito Nieves, Natalie Cole, Barry Manilow,
Clark Terry, Frankie Valli, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Robert John, Streetlight Manifesto, Josh
Groban, John Oates, Wil Swindler Elevenet, STS9, NOFX, Big Gigantic/Dominic Lalli, Big Head Todd,
Hazel Miller, Steve Lippia, Rich Matteson, Eddie Daniels, Gary Burton, Rick Margitza, Gary Willis,
Claudio Roditi, Rosemary Clooney, Maureen McGovern, Bob McGrath, Bill Conti, Patrick Williams,
Santa Fe & The Fat City Horns, Larry Braggs, Lon Bronson Band, Clarence Clemmons, Eddie Santiago,
Joe Piscopo, Chris Daniels & The Kings, Lannie Garrett, Warren Miller Storm, Dotsero, Matt Morris,
Gene Aitken, Vaclav Nelhybel, Alfred Reed, John Paynter, Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, David Lockington

Freelance Denver 2001-Present, NYC 1998-99, Las Vegas 1993-97 Miami 1987-92

Cruise Ships NCL, RCL, Crystal, Holland America 1988-99 (4yrs total)

University of Miami Concert Jazz Band w Whit Sidener 1990-92

Walt Disney World All-American Collegiate Orchestra w Jim Christensen 1990

McDonald's All-American High School Jazz Band w Bob Curnow 1987

McDonald's All-American High School Marching Band w William Foster 1986

Clark Terry / Rich Matteson Summer Jazz Camps 1985, 1986, 1990, 1991

Colorado All-State Band, Jazz Band & Orchestra 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987

SKILLS

Trombone, Keyboards, Jazz Improvisation, Music Technology
Music Producer, Recording/Mixing Engineer, Music Theory, Arranger/Orchestrator
Music Director/Bandleader/Conductor, Musician Contractor
Innovator, Graphic Designer, Website Designer, Photographer, Videographer, Video Editor
Public Speaker, Podcast Host, Online Course Creator, Social Media Influencer

EDUCATION

University of Miami Bachelor Degree: Double Major 1987-1992

Studio Music & Jazz – CJB Concert Jazz Band Directed by Whit Sidener

Classical Performance – Trombone Professor Charles Campbell

Aspen Music School 1992

Private Study 1985-1998

Carl Fontana, Bill Watrous, Conrad Herwig, Jiggs Whigham, Dante Luciani (UM), Tom Garling (UM) Charles Campbell (UM) Ron Miller (UM) Vince Maggio (UM) Gary Lindsay (UM) John Daley (Denver Symphony) Paul Naslund (Denver Symphony) Mark Anderson

JEN Jazz Education Network & ITA Int'l Trombone Association Member since 2008

PERSONAL INTERESTS

“To inspire people around the world to create music and promote wellness so we can all become a fundamental ingredient in the global recipe to heal the planet.”

Health & Fitness — Completed Denver Marathon in 3:56 @ Age 11 in 1981

Self Improvement, Photography, Movies, Animals, Nature, Space

REFERENCES

Steve Roach - California State University
Director of Jazz Studies
Sacramento, CA
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John Gunther - University of Colorado Boulder
Director of Jazz Studies
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Timothy Libby - Cherry Creek High School
Director of Bands
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Gary Lindsay - University of Miami
Former Director of Studio / Jazz Comp
Frost School of Music
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Alberto Chapa - Ableton Brand Manager
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