



Oberlin College and Conservatory

PHOTO: YEVGEN GULENKO



# Tuition Dollars

By Irene Henry

# For Musical Scholars

(and others who are trying very hard)

**Y**OU'VE IDENTIFIED AS A MUSICIAN since you first plodded through a scale on the piano at age five. Maybe you experimented with some fast-fingering on a flute, or with the rounded low tones of a tuba before finally settling upon the virtuosity and expansive repertoire of the violin.

Or, perhaps you fill your weekends with hours in front of the computer, tinkering endlessly with electronic compositions. Or you're quickly developing the technical ingenuity required for audio engineering. Maybe you dream of owning your own record label and launching the next big artist.

Whatever your avenue within music, you know that, after high school, you want to delve more deeply into your musical passion. You've heard about the different areas of study, and learned about renowned faculty around the nation. Now you're pumped about one college in particular, so you check out their website, imagine yourself attending, and then - BAM. You find yourself face-to-face with a cost of tuition that instantly punctures your euphoric bubble.

# Teacher Spotlight



## ANIKA PERESS

### Musician's Institute

Artist Development, Independent Artist, Vocal

**Anika Peress**, aka 'Anika Paris,' incorporates her 25 years of experience 'on and off' the stage into her lectures at the Musician's Institute in Hollywood, California. Anika is a classically trained pianist and teaches 'Artist Development: The Songs', 'Artist Development: The Show', and conducts open counseling sessions. Peress is a CRIA (Canada) double-platinum singer/songwriter and recipient of ASCAP's Abe Oleman Scholarship and ASCAP's Pop Plus Award. She has published songs with Universal/Polygram and Warner Bros., which have been featured in major films, soundtracks and TV shows such as 'Bounce', 'Sex and The City' and 'So You Think You Can Dance', to name a few. She's released three solo recordings, toured the world, performed for the Royal Princess of Thailand and shared the stage with Stevie Wonder, John Legend and John Mayer. She's also a composer for WB Telepictures, and currently writing for theatre. Peress is a published poet nominated for the International Latino Poetry Award in 2013 and the author of two books with Hal Leonard: 'Making Your Mark in Music', and 'The Five Star Music Makeover'. ♦

## BEST Music SCHOOLS 2020



It's understandable: the average annual cost for tuition, room, board and expenses at an out-of-state music college has risen to almost \$40,000, with some programs peaking at around \$70,000. Two-year schools and in-state institutions are considerably more affordable, but for many students, even those are still not realistic option. So, given the economic hurdle, is it still possible for students of modest means to consider higher music education?

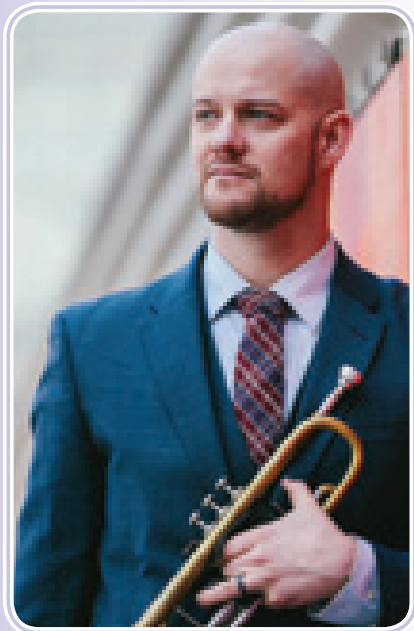
For students eyeing college costs warily, Dr. David Fish, Director of Popular Music at Catawba College, offers this morsel: "It's no secret that what colleges say their tuition cost isn't actually what you'll end up paying."

John Huling, Director of Admissions at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, agrees. "It's important that a student not only look at the 'retail price,' but to understand [sic] that the actual net cost will be taking into account the cost of attendance subtracted by any scholarships or financial aid. There may be outside scholarships, institutional aid opportunities, state or federal grants, as well as private and federal loans."

**"We're looking for talent and potential, not any specific training. We don't even expect (candidates) to read music. We're not listening for musical gymnastics either - how high or fast they can play. We're more interested in the soul,"**

**- Dr. David Fish,**  
Director of Popular Music at Catawba College

# Teacher Spotlight



## ANDY KOZAR

Longy School of Music  
of Bard College

Winds & Brass Chair

In addition to teaching trumpet at Longy, Andy Kozar is co-director of Ensemble Uncaged, Longy's contemporary music ensemble, as well as the Divergent Studio, a 10-day summer program designed for young composers and performers of contemporary music. You can apply to participate in the Divergent Studio program as an individual or as a group at [longy.edu/study/longys-divergent-studio](http://longy.edu/study/longys-divergent-studio).

Kozar is a versatile trumpeter, having played in venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and Shanghai Symphony Hall, performing music of every style from contemporary to baroque to indie-pop. He currently performs with loadbang, an "inventive" quartet (according to the New York Times) and the Byrne:Kozar:Duo as an accompanist to fellow Longy School professor Corrine Byrne. He is the winds and brass chair at Longy. ♦

## BEST Music SCHOOLS 2020



Millikin University School of Music

If you've decided to explore your options for financial aid, know that the application processes can be a bit cumbersome. Applying for scholarships, federal loans, and grants can feel a bit like treading through molasses, so here's some advice from colleges around the country:

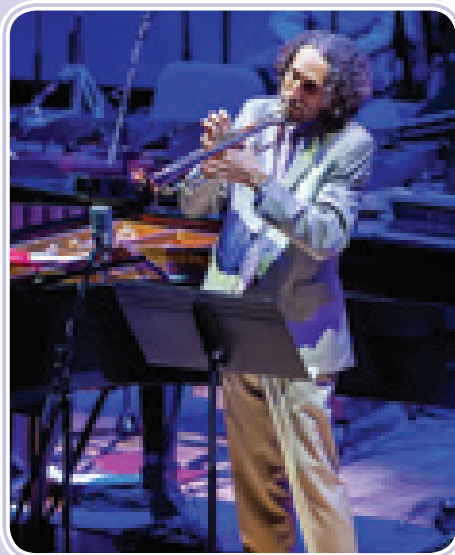
We've heard consistently acceptance to a music school almost always comes with some form of financial aid, for those who need it, and in some other cases as well. For example, Longy School of Music at Bard College says that a whopping 98% of its music students receive *merit-based* assistance. The University of St. Thomas in Minnesota offers financial scholarships to 97% of incoming freshmen, and even at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where tuition hovers only slightly below the apex, that number is 90%.

That said, the amount of these scholarships can vary anywhere from \$1,000 to full tuition. The dollar amount of each scholarship of course matters, but the number of scholarships for which you apply (and hopefully receive) is important too. It's also essential to keep in mind that admissions officers genuinely *want* you

**"Every student is a unique individual, with opportunities for funding that support a number of different aspects of each student. These might include academic awards, musical awards, legacy awards for alumni, awards with specific guidelines furnished by donors; the list could be endless."**

**- Dr. James Douthit,**  
Dean of the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University

# Teacher Spotlight



## DR. JOHN DAVERSA

**Frost School of Music**

Associate Professor of Jazz

**Dr. John Daversa**, Department Chair of Studio Music and Jazz, directs The Frost Jazz Concert Band as well as several small ensembles at the university. He also teaches Musical Improvisation for freshman. Dr. Daversa joined Frost in 2013 with a Bachelors in Music from UCLA, a Masters in Jazz studies at California Institute of the Arts, and a PhD in Jazz Studies from USC. Dr. Daversa is a renowned composer, arranger, trumpet/EWI soloist, and leader of the John Daversa Big Band and the John Daversa Small Group. He has been nominated for six GRAMMYS and has won three. Daversa was a finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition. He won Best In Show, Global Music Awards for *Junk Wagon: The Big Band Album* (2011) and has received the Herb Alpert Award, Italian Heritage Award, the David Joel Miller Award, the National Trumpet Competition and the ITG Jazz Soloist Competition. Daversa declares, 'What you want for yourself, give freely to others. Our musicianship is simply an extension and expression of our level of consciousness.' ♦

## BEST *Music* SCHOOLS 2020

to attend.

Karen Kerr, Director of Admissions at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, hopes students aren't disheartened by the apparent cost tuition. "You never know what can happen," she says. "Scholarships and need-based aid can, in many cases, make a school like University of Miami very reasonable. When we admit a student, we make every effort to ensure that the student can afford to attend. A very large percentage of our students have 100% of their needs met."

Most schools automatically consider you for scholarships with your application to the school. At Columbia College in Chicago, you may submit the application, called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and a portfolio all at the same time. You are then eligible for three kinds of aid: merit-based, determined by academic success in high school; need-based, taking into account your financial situation; and talent-based, according to the strength of the portfolio. Regardless of major, students can stack all three types of aid to create a solid package of tuition coverage.

Some schools, however, request that you fill out an additional form for music and merit-based scholarships. At Millikin University in Illinois, prospective students must submit an application to the university as well as a separate application to the School of Music. Once you're accepted to the



university, you have the opportunity to schedule an audition for entrance into the music school and consideration for scholarships.

The Musicians Institute in California incentivizes applying early by offering monetary awards of up to \$3,000 annually simply for meeting their first application deadline. Other schools, such as Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), make decisions regarding scholarship recipients after they've been accepted to the school.

So, the factors for receiving scholarships can vary widely depending on the school. At some institutions, such as Appalachian State University, the audition matters above all, with attention also to aural skills and written theory. Peabody employs a "merit-based, needs-informed" approach to determining scholarships, valuing the audition and interview but also accounting for financial situations.

At other schools, such as Catawba College, technical ability plays a lesser role. "We're looking for talent and potential, not any specific training. We don't even expect (candidates) to read music. We're not listening for musical gymnastics either - how high or fast they can play. We're more interested in the soul," says Dr. Fish.

The Longy School of Music takes a more holistic approach to



Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University

scholarship decisions. Emily Arkin, Longy's Media & Public Relations Manager, explains, "Longy scholarships are merit-based, as decided by the strength of a student's application and audition, their academic and artistic record of achievement, and assessment of a student's potential to become a leader in their chosen artistic endeavors ... a student's alignment with our mission to make a difference in the world."

Columbia College Chicago offers a unique opportunity to accrue scholarship funds even before applying, using the web-based application RaiseMe which allows a student to record grades, courses, and extracurriculars to earn redeemable micro-scholarships. There are actually now over 200 colleges around the nation using RaiseMe to help students reduce tuition costs. Derek Brinkley, Columbia's Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Admissions, explains, "Essentially, students sign up and they are guaranteed a minimum merit-based scholarship so long as they have a 2.75 GPA. It's not separate from their main Columbia merit-based scholarship. It simply ensures that they are minimally (going to get) something from us."

Many institutions are now presenting unique scholarship programs to alleviate costs. At Longy, 10 students each year are inducted into the El Sistema Teaching Assistantship program. Along with exceptional teaching opportunities, the TA program provides a \$10,000 scholarship towards tuition. Incoming freshmen note their interest in being considered for the program where students teach local children, on their applications.



Musicians Institute

Jacobs School at Indiana University



Emily Arkin says the TA program exemplifies Longy’s desire for students to share music beyond rehearsal walls. “Our Teaching Assistantship program underscores Longy’s deep and enduring commitment to the El Sistema movement within the United States, and the school’s dedication to the local community. All TAs are supported with ongoing coursework to highlight and develop various teaching skills. TAs then apply their knowledge and gain experience in diverse settings and in Longy’s own Sistema Side-by-Side Program, where select students from the same partnership sites perform alongside Longy TAs, graduate students, and instrument instructors.”

The opportunity to attend a world-renowned institution might be right next door. Several colleges strive to motivate students in their community by providing scholarships to graduates of local public schools. At the Peabody Institute, John Huling speaks proudly of their Scholars program.

“Johns Hopkins University’s unique Baltimore Scholars program

provides full-tuition scholarships to qualifying admitted graduates of the Baltimore City Public Schools. It was launched in 2004 as an extension and reflection of the university’s long-standing investment in Baltimore’s students and schools. The Peabody Conservatory has welcomed more than 25 Baltimore Scholars since the program’s inception.”

Oberlin and Columbia Colleges have similar programs for local students. At Columbia, incoming freshmen from Chicago Public Schools are automatically awarded the Columbia CPS Award - between \$11,000-12,500 annually, depending on high school GPA.

Columbia also has a very useful database called the ‘Scholarship Finder’ that allows incoming and current students to input different criteria in order to sort through the extensive number of scholarships available. You can select the level of study, student status, and program area to narrow down options.

Many schools offer scholarships to incoming freshmen, but there are also a number of opportunities for current students to receive scholarships in later years through demonstrated success and need. John Huling told us that students should know that “if there is a significant change in their financial status during their years at Peabody, they may appeal to (alter) their scholarship and financial aid.”

Schools rely heavily upon donor funding for scholarship money. Dr. James Douthit, Dean of the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University, speaks of the pipeline they cultivate between students and alumni benefactors. Each year, they host a luncheon to introduce donor recipients to their patrons.

“We are fortunate to have a large body of committed donors. We work to instill an appreciation for that contribution in our students so that eventually they can be donors for scholarships and pass along the generosity that has been bestowed upon them, thereby renewing this cycle of support.”

Dr. Douthit strongly encourages students to apply to the school of their dreams regardless of tuition cost. “In some respects, every student is a unique individual, with opportunities for funding that support a number of different aspects of each student. These might include academic awards, musical awards, legacy awards for alumni, awards with specific guidelines furnished by donors; the list could be endless.”

Lastly, it’s important to keep in mind the invaluable experiences, opportunities, and lessons you will receive at music school. As Peabody’s Huling says, “The education received at an institution such as Peabody is something that will be of high value for the rest of a student’s life.” **T**