

# SEAN HIGGINS

---

<b>Education</b>	<b>2003-2005</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ M.M., Master of Music in Jazz Studies</li><li>▪ Graduated Suma Cum Laude – GPA 4.0</li><li>▪ Graduate Assistant – Granted full tuition waiver and stipend</li><li>▪ Leader of Liberace Jazztet</li><li>▪ Toured nationally and internationally to perform and recruit for the university</li><li>▪ Director of NIU's ensemble program</li></ul>		
	<b>1999-2003</b>	<b>University of North Carolina</b>	<b>Wilmington, NC</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ B.M., Bachelor in Music</li><li>▪ Graduated Magna Cum Laude - GPA 3.7</li><li>▪ Recipient of UNCW's most prestigious Adcock Scholarship</li><li>▪ Dean's List all semesters</li></ul>		
	<b>1994-1999</b>	<b>Andover High School</b>	<b>Andover, MA</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Marching Band-1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet</li><li>▪ Orchestra-1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet</li><li>▪ Jazz Band-1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet</li></ul>		
<b>Academic Appointment</b>	<b>2003-2005</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
	<i>Graduate Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Band director of small jazz ensembles</li></ul>		
<b>Courses Taught</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>JazzArts Academy</b>	<b>Charlotte, NC</b>
	<i>Jazz Faculty</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Coached small ensembles consisting of middle and high school students in a weekly workshop</li></ul>		
	<b>2008-2015</b>	<b>British International School</b>	<b>Shanghai, CN</b>
	<i>Jazz/Pop Piano Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Taught private lessons to students ages Pre-K through year 13</li></ul>		
	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>JZ Music School</b>	<b>Shanghai, CN</b>
	<i>Piano Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Taught private lessons to students ages Pre-K through adult</li></ul>		
	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>Western International School</b>	<b>Shanghai, CN</b>
	<i>Class Piano Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Taught four weekly piano classes to children ages Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade</li></ul>		
	<b>2003-2005</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
	<i>Piano Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Small Jazz Ensembles</li><li>▪ Private Instruction</li><li>▪ Taught Improvisation/Theory (instructed small and large jazz ensembles on jazz theory, improvisation, and style)</li></ul>		

---

**Clinics/  
Workshops**

- 2016** **Quanzhou Concert Hall** **Quanzhou, CN**  
*Lecturer/Performer*
- Gave a 1-hour lecture in Chinese on how to approach jazz piano from a classical pianists prospective
- 2012** **JZ Music School** **Shanghai, CN**  
*Clinician/Accompanist*
- Pianist for Heidi Krenn's "Singer & The Band" workshop
  - Two-day vocal clinic focusing on how singers work with a band onstage
- 2011** **Shanghai Community International School** **Shanghai, CN**  
*Clinician/Accompanist*
- Chief choir accompanist for three-day All-China International Music Convention
  - Included students from SCIS Hongqiao, SCIS Pudong, Hangzhou Int'l School, TYIC, and WAB
- 2010** **Concordia International School** **Shanghai, CN**  
*Lecturer*
- Gave a 6-hour intensive workshop to the entire music faculty on the leading notation software; Finale
- 2008** **Tchaikovsky Music College** **Yekaterinburg, RU**  
*Clinician*
- Conducted masterclass for jazz students ages 15-18
- Minsk Music College** **Minsk, BLR**  
*Clinician*
- Open Q/A forum for 30-50 Jazz Students; performance emphasis
- Institute of Modern Knowledge** **Minsk, BLR**  
*Clinician*
- Conducted workshop "Music as a Business"
  - Conducted discussion with future producers, managers, agents, publicists, and promoters
  - Translator present
- Duke Ellington School** **New York, NY**  
*Clinician*
- 3-week "Motion-in-Sound" curriculum to challenge students to interpret different music and express themselves through various movements
- JZ Music School** **Shanghai, CN**  
*Clinician*
- Conducted a masterclass as an introduction to jazz piano
- 2007** **Tri-C Jazz Festival** **Cleveland, OH**  
*Clinician, Performer, Adjudicator*
- Conducted multiple masterclasses, performances, and high-school large ensemble evaluations
- 2006** **Sonoma State University** **Rohnert Park, CA**  
*Clinician*
- Taught jazz concepts and rhythm section performance concepts
- Cuyahoga Community College** **Cleveland, OH**  
*Clinician*
- Taught jazz concepts and rhythm section performance concepts
- 2005** **Northern Illinois University** **DeKalb, IL**  
*Clinician, Camp Counselor*

- NIU Jazz Camp assistant camp director
- Responsible for assigning other counselors tasks and problem solving
- Encouraged musical growth of high school age attendees
- Recruited for the college program

	<b>Northern Illinois University Jazz Festival</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
<i>Clinician, Adjudicator</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted jazz piano masterclasses and combo coaching</li> </ul>		
	<b>Northern Illinois University Combo Day</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
<i>Clinician, Adjudicator, Instructor</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted masterclasses on piano fundamentals and jazz improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>LaGuardia HS</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught small group concepts and improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>East St. Louis HS</b>	<b>East St. Louis, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught large and small group concepts and improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>Joliet West HS</b>	<b>Joliet, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught piano fundamentals and large ensemble performance concepts</li> </ul>		
	<b>Metamora HS</b>	<b>Metamora, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught large ensemble fundamentals and fundamentals of the piano</li> </ul>		
	<b>Benton HS</b>	<b>Zion, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught large and small group concepts and improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>Downers Grove South HS</b>	<b>Downers Grove, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught piano fundamentals and large ensemble performance concepts</li> </ul>		
	<b>Bigfoot HS</b>	<b>Walworth, WI</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught large and small group concepts and improvisation</li> </ul>		
<b>2004</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University Jazz Festival</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
<i>Clinician, Adjudicator</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught piano fundamentals and large ensemble performance concepts</li> </ul>		
	<b>Northern Illinois University Combo Day</b>	<b>DeKalb, IL</b>
<i>Clinician, Adjudicator, Instructor</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conducted masterclasses on piano fundamentals and jazz improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>North Scott HS</b>	<b>Eldridge, IA</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught style and interpretation of Duke Ellington's music</li> </ul>		
	<b>Downers Grove HS</b>	<b>Downers Grove, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught piano fundamentals and large ensemble performance concepts</li> </ul>		
	<b>Joliet Central HS</b>	<b>Joliet, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught large ensemble fundamentals and jazz improvisation</li> </ul>		
	<b>Wauwatosa East HS</b>	<b>Wauwatosa, WI</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taught style and interpretation of Duke Ellington's music</li> </ul>		
	<b>Lisle HS</b>	<b>Lisle, IL</b>
<i>Clinician</i>		

- Taught large ensemble fundamentals and jazz improvisation  
**Springfield Arts Center** **Springfield, IL**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and fundamentals of the piano  
  
**Badger HS** **Lake Geneva, WI**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and jazz improvisation  
  
**Mundelein HS** **Mundelein, IL**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and fundamentals of the piano  
  
**Zion HS** **Zion, IL**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and jazz improvisation  
  
**2003** **Mundelein HS** **Mundelein, IL**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and fundamentals of the piano  
  
**North Scott HS** **Eldridge, IA**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught style and interpretation of Duke Ellington's music  
  
**Bayview HS** **Milwaukee, WI**  
*Clinician*
  - Taught large ensemble fundamentals and fundamentals of the piano
- 

## Performances

- 2018**
  - Sean Higgins Trio-Charlotte Jazz Festival, Charlotte, NC
  - Ronghao Li-"Dream" World tour-London
- 2017**
  - Ronghao Li-"Dream" World tour-Los Angeles, San Jose, Vancouver, Toronto, Sydney, Singapore
- 2016**
  - Ronghao Li-"Dream" World tour-20 cities in China
  - Shunza-"Home" tour-10 cities in China, Malaysia
- 2015**
  - Ronghao Li-"Born" tour-15 cities in China
  - Karen Mok-"Regardez" World tour, 25 cities in China, Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles, London, Madrid, Milan, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland
- 2014**
  - Karen Mok 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour-25 cities in China
  - Chen Chu Sheng-15 City Poly Theater tour in mainland China
- 2013**
  - Greg Luttrell Band-Residency at House of Blues and Jazz, Shanghai CN
  - Shunza-Brown Sugar Club, Taipei, TW
  - Resident Pianist-Jade on 36 bar-Shangri La Hotel, Shanghai, CN
- 2012**
  - Antonio Hart Quartet-Paulaner Bar, Suzhou, CN
  - Christian Howes Quartet-JZ Club, Shanghai, CN

- Shunza-JZ Jazz Festival, Shanghai, CN

## 2011

- Sean Higgins Quartet-Xi'An Concert Hall, Xi'An, CN
- Akio Sasajima Quartet-Japan tour including Tokyo, Sapporo, Hakodate, Niseko
- Antonio Hart Quartet-JZ Club, Shanghai, CN

## 2010

- Resident Pianist-Jade on 36 bar-Shangri La Hotel, Shanghai, CN
- Big Small Trio-Resident Pianist at The View-The Sands, Macau

## 2009

- Heidi Krenn Quartet-Cabaret Bar House Band, Shanghai, CN
- Brown Sugar Allstars-House Band, Shanghai, CN

## 2008

- Alvin Atkinson & the Sound Merchants-Tour through Russia, Kyrgyzstan, & Belarus with performances including: Usadba Jazz Festival, Chelyabinsk Jazz Festival, concert halls and club dates (six weeks)
- Heidi Krenn Quartet-Hong Kong Jazz Festival, Tai Koo Place, HK
- Alvin Atkinson & the Sound Merchants-Vladivostok Jazz Festival Headliners, Vladivostok, RU
- Winard Harper Sextet-Cape May Jazz Festival, Cape May, NJ
- Resident Pianist-House of Blues & Jazz, Shanghai, CN
- EJ Parker Quartet-JZ, Shanghai, CN
- Willow Nielson Trio-Blues Room, Shanghai, CN
- Alvin Atkinson & the Sound Merchants-Dizzy's, Jazz @ Lincoln Center, New York, NY; National Geographic Center-Washington, DC

## 2007

- Alvin Atkinson & the Sound Merchants-Middle East tour to UAE, Yemen, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, & Jerusalem (six weeks)
- Winard Harper Sextet-Tri C Jazz Festival, Cleveland, OH
- Alvin Atkinson & the Sound Merchants-Dizzy's, Jazz @ Lincoln Center, New York, NY; National Geographic Center-Washington, DC
- Winard Harper Sextet-Charleston Jazz Festival Series, Poca, WV; Jazz in Cincy Concert Series, Cincinnati, OH; Sanofi-Aventis JazzFest 2007, Madison, NJ; Art After 5 Concert Series, Philadelphia, PA; Starry Nights Concert Series, New York, NY; Jazz & Rib Fest, Columbus, OH

## 2006

- Winard Harper Sextet-The Jazz Standard, New York, NY; JazzMobile, New York, NY; Pine Valley Reunion Jazz Festival, Buffalo, NY; Vail Jazz Festival, Vail, CO; A Place for Jazz, Schenectady, NY

## 2005

- Northern Illinois University Jazz Ensemble featuring Conrad Herwig-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)
- Liberace Jazztet-"Dizzy's" Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Eddie Henderson-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)
- Liberace Jazztet-Elmhurst Jazz Festival, Elmhurst, IL

## 2004

- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Donald Harrison-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)
- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Bobby Shew-Lima Jazz Festival, Lima, Peru
- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Byron Stripling-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)
- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Red Holloway-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)
- Liberace Jazztet-Iowa City Jazz Festival, Iowa City, IA; The Sheldon, St. Louis, MO; Lima Jazz Festival, Lima, Peru

## 2003

- NIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Dennis Mackrel-Midwest recruitment tour (one week)

## Membership

---

The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

---

## Discography

Artist	Title	Label/Release Date
Sean Higgins	Shanghai Decade	Sean Higgins Music/2018
	Three Years' Stories	Sean Higgins Music/2008
	The New Thought	Sean Higgins Music/2005
Red Groove Project	Proper Up	L. Ku Music/2016
	Flow	L. Ku Music/2013
Shunza	To The Top	elevenZ/2014
Techmak	Vol. 2 Uncertain Worlds	JZ Music/2018
Xiao Li Zhan	Jazzeption	Sony/2016
Willow Neilson	Lightbulb Life	Willow Neilson/2012
Alvin Atkinson	The Sound Merchants	Self Published/2007
Winard Harper Sextet	Make It Happen	Piadrums Records/2006
Liberace Jazztet	Monkin' Around	Self Published
NIU Jazz Ensemble w Conrad Herwig	Swinging On the Road	CD Baby/2011
Pamela Mcpherson-Cornelius	Life Of A Superstar	Self-Published/2008

## Published Reviews

---

"Rhythm Road Tour Press Release" Jazz @ Lincoln Center, Dec 2007

"Sean Higgins' First CD" Cape Fear Jazz Society, Dec 2005

"Debut CD: New Thought for former AHS piano player" Andover Townsman, Jan 2006

"Latin Beat strong this week on Jazz Circuit" Rocky Mountain News, Sept 2006

---

## Honors & Awards

2019 Webop Early Education-Certified Accompanist

2005 Outstanding Soloist-Elmhurst Jazz Festival

1995 Outstanding Musicianship-IAJE