

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Adam R. Larson

The University High School Alumni Association honors Adam R. Larson, class of 2008, as a 2019 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

Larson graduated from University High School in 2008, where he was a Valedictorian of his class. He also earned the following distinctions during his academic years and activities: YoungArts Jazz Fellow, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, National Honors Society Member, Four year Choral/Bank member, Four year Jazz Gold member, Selection to Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band of America (2 years), Monterey Jazz Festival Next Generation Jazz Orchestra (2 years), Telluride Jazz All-Stars, Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency Program at the Kennedy Center, Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia, Twin City Honors Band, Rotary Student of the Year, All-State Musician, and Composition/Improvisation Contest Winner – Illinois Music Educators Association (4 years).

After high school, Larson attended the Manhattan School of Music, where he graduated with a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Performance in 2012. He also went on to earn a Masters of Music in Jazz Performance in 2014 at the same school.

Larson prides himself on handwork and dedication and has accomplished a great deal throughout his young career, working primarily as his own boss. After 11 years in NYC, Larson recently relocated to Kansas City, where he is currently on faculty at University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory teaching music business and jazz saxophone. In addition to his teaching at the university, Larson has taught thousands of lessons over the last ten years to students around the globe, via FaceTime, Skype and other online platforms and has served as a teaching artist for the Monterey Jazz Festival, Grammy Foundation, YoungArts, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York Pops and Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance. Larson has also authored three jazz pedagogy books that have been sold in over 50 countries worldwide and created an online masterclass that has also been sold in countries across the globe.

As a bandleader, Adam has released five albums and played for audiences around the world on tours of Africa, India, Taiwan, Germany, Holland, Poland, the United Kingdom and much of the United States.

Throughout his career, Larson has garnered many professional accolades, including:

- Becoming an endorsed Artist for Vandoren Reeds, Mouthpieces and Ligatures, P. Mauriat saxophones and Boston Sax Shop Heritage saxophone necks.
- Masterclass appearances at over 50 colleges/universities, including Yale, The University of North Texas, Temple University, The Manhattan School of Music, and the University of Michigan, to name a few.
- Performances as a sideman or leader at The Village Vanguard, Jazz Standard, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, The Jazz Gallery, Smalls, The Jazz Showcase, Dazzle and several other prestigious venues around the world.
- Critical-acclaim from publications such as The New York Times, Downbeat Magazine, and Jazziz Magazine.
- Commissioned composer for more than thirty schools, for large original large ensemble compositions. Larson was commissioned by the Illinois Music Educators Association to compose the 2020 All-State Jazz composition and will be the guest director of the 2020 Illinois All-State Honors Jazz Band in Peoria, IL.

Larson started a family in 2016 with his beautiful wife Tierney, whom he met while at The Manhattan School of Music. Adam and Tierney have two sons, Jack and Clark and are currently based in Kansas City.

University High School



2008

