



LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC
16TH ANNUAL
CHARLES MINGUS FESTIVAL &
HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION
FEB 16 - 19, 2024 CHARLESMINGUS.ORG

Dear Students, Band Directors, Parents,

Let My Children Hear Music (The Charles Mingus Institute) and Dr. Keller Coker of the School of Jazz & Contemporary Music at The New School are excited to announce the Sixteenth Annual **Charles Mingus Festival & High School Competition**, founded in 2008 by NEA Jazz Master Sue Mingus.

The Competition/Festival weekend includes optional Friday and essential Saturday workshops and masterclasses at The New School, run by veteran Mingus repertory musicians and educators, a full day Sunday of Competition performances, special Mingus Big Band concerts, and numerous opportunities to immerse in the sights and sounds of New York City. Don't miss a visit to the Charles Mingus room at The New School where his Steinway grand piano resides surrounded by Mingus posters and memorabilia, and the legendary Mingus basses will be on display and in use!

Past adjudicators and clinicians have included **Dr. Keller Coker**, trombonist/Dean of The New School of Jazz & Contemporary Music; **Justin DiCioccio**, former Chair of the Jazz Arts Program at Manhattan School of Music; **Wayne Escoffery**, tenor saxophonist/Professor Yale University; **Robin Eubanks**, trombonist/Professor Oberlin College; **Tatum Greenblatt**, trumpeter/Professor The Juilliard School; **Conrad Herwig**, trombonist/Director of Jazz Studies Rutgers University; **Andrew Homzy**, musicologist/author/Professor Concordia University, Montreal; **Sy Johnson**, Charles Mingus and Mingus Big Band composer/arranger; **Boris Kozlov**, bassist/arranger/Musical Director of Mingus Repertory Bands/Professor Syracuse University; **Christian McBride**, bassist/Creative Chair for Jazz LA Philharmonic; **Eric Mingus**, vocalist/bassist/poet; **James Newton**, flutist/Professor UCLA; **Dr. Alexander Pope Norris**, trumpeter/Professor Rutgers University; **Gunther Schuller**, conductor/Pulitzer-winning composer/educator; **Lauren Sevian**, baritone saxophonist/Professor Berklee College of Music; **Helen Sung**, pianist/Professor Columbia University; **Reggie Workman**, bassist/NEA Jazz Master; **Andy McKee**, bassist/Director of New School Jazz's Mingus Ensemble, **Abraham Burton**, tenor saxophonist/Director of Rutgers University's Mingus Ensemble; **Ingrid Jensen**, trumpet/Dean of Manhattan School of Music; **Mark Gross**, alto saxophonist/Director of Jazz Instruction NJPAC; **Earl McIntyre**, bass trombonist/InterSchool Orchestras of New York; and more.

In addition, at least one \$25,000 tuition scholarship to The New School will be awarded in the name of Charles Mingus, to a graduating senior participating in the Festival. Award will be based on Competition performance, and application and acceptance to The New School's Jazz & Contemporary Music program.

Thank you for your heart, spirit, and dedication. You are an important part of the music community and the legacy of Charles and Sue Mingus.

101 years later... Mingus Lives!

Warmest Regards,

Let My Children Hear Music

Roberto Ungaro, Eric Mingus, Shannon Manning, Zach Kirsimae, Theodore Davis, Kal Ferretti

FAQ

Who can participate?

Combos and big bands from high schools nationwide.

Combos and big bands are subdivided into a) non-specialized high schools and b) specialized schools and programs, which includes self-directed combos.

What does self-directed combo mean?

Students may independently assemble a combo with other high school-aged students from anywhere and self-direct the ensemble. Groups will need adult approval and trip supervision, as specified in the application.

What are the definitions of Combo and Big Band?

Combo: 2-9 musicians.

Big Band: 10-17 or 20 musicians, depending on the arrangement.

Mingus Big Band arrangements typically have 14 parts; Simply Mingus arrangements have 17. You may add 3 additional instruments (guitar, keys, clarinet, etc.) You may not double parts (two of the same instrument on one part), or split one song between two players. You MAY alternate performers on different tunes (not the same tune) as long as no more than 14 (or 17 if additional instruments) are performing at one time for Mingus Big Band charts, and no more than 17 (or 20 with additional instrumentation) for Simply Mingus charts. For more details about expanding instrumentation within the guidelines, see PART 1 SIGN UP sheet, or contact the LMCHM office.

How do we participate?

Each ensemble selects three Mingus charts to perform and submits a pre-screening recording. They will receive individual feedback from the adjudicators and compete for a spot in the Competition.

What charts will we receive for our entry fee?

Combos will receive a digital packet of Mingus lead sheets from which they will select three to arrange. Big bands will select 3 fully-arranged Mingus Big Band or Simply Mingus charts. You may not repeat selections you performed in the prior year.

NEW - What if we want to do a longer extended composition? Big bands may perform one extended composition and one standard-length composition instead of three. See composition list for details.

How long is our performance time?

If your ensemble is selected as a finalist, you will have 30 minutes of stage time during the Competition: 5 minutes on, 20 minutes of music, and 5 minutes off. Please take this into consideration when selecting your program.

Can we enter as both combo and big band?

Yes, but you must submit two separate entries.

Can a student perform in two bands?

Yes, a student may perform in two bands as long as they are not competing in the same category.

Can vocalists participate?

Yes! Vocalists can participate with big bands or combos. Lyrics have been written by Charles Mingus, Joni Mitchell, Elvis Costello, and Sue Mingus. See audio selections for details.

What additional support will we receive?

Videos, sound files, and other educational materials will be available on the website. Our office is available to answer any of your questions.

How many will make it to the finals?

12-13 total, at least 3 from each category: Combos, Specialized & Self-Directed Combos, Big Bands, and Specialized Big Bands.

What if we are not finalists? Can we still come?

YES! ALL applicants, whether finalists or not, will receive adjudication feedback, and may also come to NYC to participate in clinics, concerts, jams, and special events in New York City. A few schools do it every year and feedback has been very positive.

What if we can't travel to New York?

You can still participate! You will receive charts, guidance and expert feedback on your submitted recording and access to any livestreams and online materials.

What is the fee?

For \$200, each group will receive music charts, feedback on their submission, and may attend the Competition and clinics, even if they are not finalists. Fee increases to \$250 after October 15, 2023.

What if we can't afford the fee or travel?

In an effort to increase participation and diversity, we are pleased to announce the Sue Mingus Memorial Fund. Entry fee waivers and travel stipends are available on a limited basis. Please contact us for consideration.

What are the prizes?

There will be trophies and certificates for Best Combos and Big Bands (specialized, non-specialized, and self-directed combos) plus honors for Outstanding Soloists, Section Players, Student Arrangers, Instrument Sections, and a "Mingus Spirit" award to a group or individual.

Can the same group win year after year?

Best Big Bands and Best Combo winners for two consecutive years may not compete for one year. They may, however, submit a recording for comment and attend the Competition weekend.

What do I need to know about the New School scholarship?

Please let us know if you have seniors applying to The New School's Jazz and Contemporary Music program and we'll connect you with New School for details.

What if I have other questions?

Email or call!

education@charlesmingus.org

212-736-4749

2024 Charles Mingus High School Competition is produced by Let My Children Hear Music (The Charles Mingus Institute) and Dr. Keller Coker of the School of Jazz at The New School. Other festival/concert events produced in conjunction with Jazz Workshop, Inc.

[Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation](#) and Jazz Workshop, Inc. provide sheet music to entrants.

LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

MINGUS COMPETITION Schedule and Deadlines

Sept 7, 2023	Application registration forms available on the Mingus website. Music sent as soon as application is received. Application fee is \$200
Oct 15, 2023	Application fee increases to \$250
Sat, Dec 9, 2023	Recorded submissions must be uploaded by this date. Pre-screening adjudication begins.
Fri, Dec 22, 2023	Finalists will be announced.
Fri, Feb 16, 2024	Mingus Experience Master Class/Seminar. FREE. OPEN TO PUBLIC. This is a live-streamed festival event (not part of the competition) with the target audience being all musicians, students, and fans, but high school students are certainly welcome. AFTERNOON at The New School Arnhold Hall, Jazz Performance Space, 55 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011
Sat, Feb 17, 2024	Morning student band rehearsal, afternoon clinics and jam sessions at the School of Jazz at The New School. FREE. OPEN TO PUBLIC. Kickoff performance by Mingus Dynasty. The New School Arnhold Hall, 55 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011 SATURDAY NIGHT MINGUS BIG BAND at DROM
Sun, Feb 18, 2024	MINGUS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION PERFORMANCES. FREE. OPEN TO PUBLIC. The New School Tishman Auditorium, 63 5th Ave, New York, NY 10003 SUNDAY NIGHT MINGUS BIG BAND at DROM Outstanding soloists invited to sit in with the Mingus Big Band.
Mon, Feb 19, 2024	MINGUS MONDAYS: MINGUS BIG BAND at DROM with possible daytime open rehearsal at DROM