

Jeffrey Kunkel (D.Ed., Music Education, Penn State University; M.M., Jazz Studies, New England Conservatory; B.S., Music Education, Penn State University) is currently in his thirteenth year as a full time faculty member of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, and his second year as Coordinator of the Cali School's new major in Jazz Studies. For the previous 10 years, Dr. Kunkel also served as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Music Education. In November 2008, Dr. Kunkel was presented with the prestigious New Jersey Jazz Education Achievement Award, given annually to an educator who has excelled in the field of jazz education. During spring semester 2007, Dr. Kunkel spent a great deal of time on sabbatical study in Brazil, concentrating on Brazilian jazz and bossa. He presented a two-day workshop at the Federal University of Parana, in Curitiba, entitled Linguagem do Jazz, and performed a jazz trio masterclass at UNIRIO, in Rio de Janeiro, with friend and colleague Haroldo Mauro. Jeff recently returned to Brazil for his first featured jazz performance in Rio de Janeiro, at TribOz in the Lapa district. His duties in the Cali School includes courses in Jazz History, Jazz Theory, Jazz Improvisation, and Jazz Pedagogy, as well as direction of the MSU Jazz Band; he formerly directed the Vocal Jazz Ensemble as well. These groups have performed at the Villanova Jazz Festival, University of the Arts Jazz Festival, and New York Vocal Jazz Festival, and were featured with the Grammy Award winning New York Voices in MSU's annual Crawford Concert in December 2006. Dr. Kunkel was previously on the faculties of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Otterbein College in Columbus, Ohio, and prior to that taught on the secondary level in Darien, Connecticut and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jeff served three terms as president of the New Jersey chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education, and remains on the NJAJE board (formerly NJIAJE) as Adjudication Coordinator. He is active as a jazz pianist, composer, adjudicator, and clinician. In addition to the 2010 New Jersey All State Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Kunkel recently conducted the 2009 New Jersey Region III Jazz Band, and the 2010 New Jersey Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble. In addition, he directed the 2007 Pennsylvania District IV Jazz Band and the 2007 New Jersey Region I Jazz Band, and also had the honor of conducting the 2006 and 2002 New Jersey Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble, the 2003 New Jersey Region II Jazz Ensemble, and the 2000 New Jersey Region I Jazz Ensemble. Jeff has performed with Darmon Meader, Claudio Roditi, Jean Rohe, Mark Weinstein, Sergio Gomes, Bill Moring, and Rogério Boccato, among others. Jeff can be heard on a recent CD release by jazz trumpeter and composer Peter Sciaino, available at www.cdbaby.com. Jeff was also featured prominently on piano, keyboards, and trumpet on a 2001 CD release by eclectic singer/songwriter Julie Aaron entitled Borrowed Time, with a group that performed in many original music venues throughout New York City and New Jersey. For the past 20 years, Jeff has remained annually involved in summer teaching at the Penn State Jazz Camp, and is President Emeritus of the Alumni Board of the College of Arts and Architecture, on which her served for 10 years, also at his alma mater. In his spare time, Jeff is a devoted baseball, hockey and football fan (Pittsburgh teams of course!), sports card collector, and diner fanatic. Jeff and his wife Mauria, who is a teacher at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School and also a native of Pittsburgh, reside in Maplewood, New Jersey, and Las Vegas, Nevada.