

## Performer Biographies

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**SHELLY BERG** is the Dean of the University of Miami, Frost School of Music and an accomplished pianist, composer, author, and educator. The *All Music Guide* says, "Shelly Berg is one of the finest pianists around in the early 21st century playing modern mainstream jazz." A Concord Recording artist, his 2006 CD, *Blackbird*, reached #1 in US Jazz Radio, and garnered record of the year and artist of the year nominations. Shelly has composed and orchestrated for major motion pictures and television, including Warner Bros.' *For Your Consideration*, Fox 2000's *Men of Honor*, HBO's *Dennis Miller Live*, and CBS' *A League of Their Own*. Other recording and orchestrating collaborations include Chicago, Kiss, Joe Cocker, Steve Miller, Bobby McFerrin, Lou Rawls, and Ray Sings: Basie Swings, (Concord Records' Ray Charles/Count Basie recording). Shelly is a Past President of the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), and in 2000 the *Los Angeles Times* named him one of the three "Educators for the Millennium." Shelly Berg's textbooks are staples in jazz education, and include *The Chop Monster*, *Jazz Improvisation: The Goal-Note Method*, and *Essentials of Jazz Theory*.

**RAÚL MURCIANO, JR.** was born in Miami, Florida and began his musical training at the piano at the age of six. He received private instruction for nine years, the last three with the renowned pedagogue, Gloria Biaggi. At University of Miami he pursued his undergraduate studies, beginning first in music, and later transferring to civil engineering. He returned a decade later to earn a masters and doctorate in composition. In 1975, Raúl, together with Emilio Estefan, became a founding member of the musical group Miami Latin Boys (renamed Miami Sound Machine the following year). He composed *Renacer (Live Again)*, the band's first international hit, and served as keyboardist and musical director for eight years. Currently, Raúl teaches in the Media Writing & Production department.

## Frost School of Music

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### *The Mission of the Frost School of Music*

- to provide the highest quality education in music;
- to foster advancements in music performance, creativity, scholarship and research
- to serve as a major cultural resource for the University, South Florida, the nation, and the world



## Message from Dean Berg

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Although my job often entails the details of an administrator, I never lose sight of the true mission of the Frost School of Music—to prepare the next generation of brilliant and inspired professional musicians to take their place in the world. Our graduates will change the cultural landscape, and it is by their example that we will continue to be known as one of the nation's great music schools.

I came to the Frost School excited by the prospects of our leadership among higher education. Now, as we begin to bring new ideas to fruition, I'm even more enthused! The groundbreaking work of our administration, faculty and students, along with the continued support of generous individuals and corporations, has allowed us to present some remarkable and memorable concerts, and to create new programs within the FSOM.

We are now home to the **Bruce Hornsby Creative American Music** program, an innovative minor in songwriting open to a diverse student population. Hornsby, an acknowledged master, is helping to guide students towards making their own contributions to the Great American Songbook. Moreover, guest artist appearances throughout the year augment our distinguished faculty, bringing new perspectives and ideas in American music.

The **Henry Mancini Institute** is another of our important additions. HMI/Frost Students learn that the world of music is wide and open to innovation. They collaborate with film composers, world musicians, jazz and pop icons, and other innovators in a process that will broaden their abilities and career options. The Henry Mancini Institute is named for a legendary and beloved film composer, and graduates will leave their mark on American music for decades to come.

At the Frost School of Music our teaching emanates from a love for music and our students. We are very grateful for your continued support, because with it we will continue our journey to recruit, train and graduate the most remarkable music professionals in the nation. Bravo!

Shelly Berg



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Originally from Atlanta, **JOSH ALLEN** started playing bass at the age of eleven. He made the Georgia All-State Jazz Band for four years, and performed at the Atlanta Jazz Festival. Josh is currently a sophomore at UM, and is performing with the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band. In the future, Josh hopes to continue to make music as a performer and instructor.

**KEN CLARK** is a Junior in the Musical Theater Conservatory. He has been seen in the Ring Theater's *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *The Winter's Tale*. He has recently been seen in a staged reading of *Pride and Prejudice the Musical*, directed by Mark Lamos.

**BARRETT JOHNSON** is from the D.C. Metro Area and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree with an emphasis on Jazz Vocal Performance. Past achievements include: Maryland All-State Women's Chorus; University Scholarship Recipient; Dean's List at the University of Miami; and Soloist, Corigliano Tribute, Festival Miami 2008. Here at Frost, she is a member of the prestigious Frost University Chorale and also participates in Jazz Vocal Ensemble. Additionally, she works as a cantor/vocalist for several area churches and is currently spearheading the creation of brand new music programs at two area charter schools. Barrett plans to pursue a career in performance, studio music or teaching.

Originally from Simsbury, Connecticut, **SAMUEL PETITTI** attended the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, which led him to attend the University of Miami Frost School of Music. While earning his degree, Sam has performed with many jazz greats. He was also chosen to perform the piece *Electric Counterpoint* by Steve Riech. After completing his degree in Studio Music and Jazz in 2008 and being awarded "Top Instrumentalist" in his class, Sam was accepted back to the Frost School of music to be a teaching assistant to Randall Dollahan and pursue his master's degree in Jazz Pedagogy.

Originally from Clearwater, FL, **JENNA RUBAI** joined a professional all girls song and dance troupe in Tampa. During the next twelve years she enjoyed performing about 30 shows a year for corporate events and conventions, retirement communities, charity events, theme parks, and more. She has been a National Anthem soloist for dozens of sporting events and in 1999, she sang it at the Democratic Convention with President Clinton and in 2000 at the Tampa Election Rally with President Bush. This past month she was fortunate enough to be a part of the cast in the workshop of *Pride and Prejudice The Musical* (Directed by Stanford Chair, Mark Lamos).

**TRENT SAUNDERS** is a freshman BM in Musical Theatre at this amazing school. He is currently working on Hello, Dolly! at the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre and could not be more excited to be working on it. He is currently too busy to do much other than theatre, but he is always excited to perform for another amazing audience!

Australian born drummer/composer **DANIEL SUSNAR** has performed/recorded with a host of top caliber musicians world-wide. At age 17, Daniel won best drum soloist in Western Australia and earned runner up in Australia's Best Up and Coming Drummer competition in 2002. Daniel relocated to the USA in August 2008 to undertake his Master of Music degree on full scholarship from the University of Miami.