

Kenneth Rittenhouse

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Education

2006	MM in Jazz Studies University of Maryland
1990, 1989	Graduate course work in Trumpet and Jazz Performance Duquesne University, Eastman School of Music
1988	BA in Music (Minor in Jazz Studies) West Virginia Wesleyan College

Work Experience

2025 - Present	Adjunct Professor of Trumpet American University, Washington, DC Teach applied lessons in Classical and Jazz
2020 - 2025	Adjunct Professor of Trumpet Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD - Taught applied lessons in Classical and Jazz - Directed the Morgan State Trumpet Ensemble - Conducted bi-weekly studio class
2006 - Present	Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra (SJMO) Orchestra-in-Residence: Smithsonian's National Museum of American History - Section trumpet player and featured soloist - Arranger
2019 - Present	Bethesda Blues & Jazz Youth Orchestra Bethesda, MD - Musical Director - Principal arranger - Successfully secured annual grants from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (\$12,000) and the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation (\$5,000) to support the orchestra's programs. - College advising for junior and senior orchestra members who plan on pursuing degrees in music

2012 - Present

Severn Records Studio

Annapolis, MD

- Serves as principal horn arranger
- Contractor and performer for the horn section

2006 - 2020

Adjunct Professor of Trumpet

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

- Taught applied lessons in jazz
- Performed with the faculty jazz group
- Led bi-weekly studio classes
- Coached student combos and directed the Jazz Workshop Big Band on numerous occasions
- Served on the search committee for the current Adjunct Jazz Trombone position

2017 - 2020

Element Leader of The U.S. Army Band's Popular Music Group

Fort Myer, VA

- Supervised 30 musicians within the Big Band and the Pop/Rock group
- Worked directly with the commanding officer of the Popular Music Group to staff high profile musical requests from the Military District of Washington
- Maintained the mission/performance/training calendar as well as a long-range planning calendar
- Managed an annual operating budget exceeding \$40k
- Led quarterly production meetings with Public Affairs and command staff
- Coordinated with Public Affairs staff regarding concert marketing
- Conducted quarterly and annual performance evaluations of junior and senior personnel
- Rehearsed the band on numerous occasions for the enlisted musical director
- Supervised the audition and hiring process which resulted in five new members joining The Army Blues

1990 - 2020

The U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own)

Fort Myer, VA

- Member of the Ceremonial group from 1990 to 2003
- Member the Army Blues Jazz Ensemble 2003 to 2020 as a section player and soloist
- Served as an equal opportunity representative for the unit
- Collaborated with the Equal Opportunity team to program concerts for African-American History month and Hispanic Heritage Observance
- Coordinated a historic "Musical Crossroads" concert at The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, the first of its kind in the museum's history, programmed the concert, and personally arranged four selections for this performance

Music Educator

Arts and Humanities Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities - \$7,000 award, 2024 & 2025

Teaching Artist Representative for Washington Performing Arts Society's Capital Arts Partnership programs 2012-2020

Director for the Fairfax High School and Lanier Middle School Jazz Bands 2009 to May 2011

Maryland Summer Jazz Camp: instructor, performer, clinician, combo coach, masterclasses 2014, 2019

National Jazz Workshop: instructor, performer, clinician, combo coach, masterclasses 2012-2017

GMU Summer Jazz Camp: instructor, performer, clinician, intermediate improvisation class

Performer and clinician at the Jazz Education Network, Mid-West Band Clinic, International Trumpet Guild, and the National Trumpet Conference

Brass quintet and jazz combo performances and clinics for the New York City public school system

Big band clinician at UT Arlington, Texas Christian University, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Guest conductor for the Cumberland, MD All-Star High School Jazz Ensemble

Composer/Arranger

Composer and arranger of over twenty big band and jazz orchestra charts that have been performed by The US Army Blues Jazz Ensemble, The US Army Band Jazz Orchestra, the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, and the Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival Orchestra

Composer and arranger of over thirty charts for the Bethesda Blues & Jazz Youth Orchestra

Second place winner in the 2017 National Federation of Music Clubs "American Music in the Armed Forces competition" with an original jazz orchestra arrangement of "Theme for Penelope"

Notable Performances

Joined Nasar Abadey's band SUPERNOVA on a tour to pay tribute to Duke Ellington's 150th birthday. The occasion was sponsored and held at the Georgetown University at Doha in Qatar

Featured soloist with The U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble on performances with Doc Severinsen, Arturo Sandoval, Bobby Shew, Terrell Stafford, James Moody, Ernie Watts, Bill Watrous, Wycliff Gordon, Lou Rawls, Ernie Andrews, Kevin Mahogany

Toured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra on the "Jazz Beyond Borders" tour to San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, New York City, Hong Kong, Beijing, Tokyo, and London, featuring Hubert Laws and Kurt Elling

Performed concerts with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra featuring Freddie Cole, Ahmad Jamal, and Jimmy Heath

Performed concerts with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra featuring Doc Severinsen, Bobby Floyd, Eddie Daniels, New York Voices, Christian McBride, Brandford Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera

Performed concerts with the Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival Orchestra featuring Ernie Andrews, Wycliff Gordon, and Vanessa Rubin

Performed concerts with the Wolf Trap Opera Salon Series and the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra Pops series

Presented performances of "A Louis Armstrong Tribute" with my own quartet at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and Corcoran Gallery of Art

Performed Damien Geter's east coast premiere of "An African American Requiem" with the NEWorks Philharmonic Orchestra at the Kennedy Center

Performed with the Middleburg Film Festival Orchestra featuring the "Film Music of Terence Blanchard"

Pit Orchestra Experience

"Dreamgirls" (Pittsburgh Playhouse)
"Ain't Misbehavin" (Arena Stage)
"After Midnight" (Signature Theatre - Principal)
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (National Theatre)
"Catch Me If You Can" (Arena Stage)
"Chicago" (National Theatre)
"Shout Sister Shout" (Ford's Theatre - Principal)
"Sweeney Todd (Signature Theatre)
"Hair" (Signature Theatre - Principal)
"Soft Power" (Signature Theatre - Principal)
"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum" (Signature Theatre)
"Play On!" (Signature Theatre - Principal)
"The Great Gatsby" (Hippodrome Theatre)
"1776" (Ford's Theatre - Principal)
"Suffs" (Hippodrome Theatre)

Professional Organizations

International Trumpet Guild
Jazz Education Network
American Federation of Musicians

Studio Recordings

The Kenny Rittenhouse Sextet – The Francis Suite 2006
The Kenny Rittenhouse Septet – The New York Suite 2013
The Kenny Rittenhouse Quintet – Anthem for the Elders 2026
Darden Purcell – Where the Blue Begins
Leigh Pilzer - Beatin' the Odds
Reginald Cyntje – Spiritual Awakening
Pepe Gonzales – Looking Back
Taimoor Saeedi – Eastern Sweet
Bob Murad – The Observer
The U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble: With Gratitude, 35th Anniversary, Live at Blues Alley, Swinging In The Holidays, Jazz From The Stacks
Smithsonian Jazz masterworks Orchestra - Bernstein Reimagined
Pittsburg Jazz Orchestra - Joyful Jazz