

# Joel Gordon: E-Press Kit

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## Full Length Bio:

Born in Iowa, grown in Missouri, and sprouting throughout the Midwest, **Joel Gordon** is a cultivating saxophonist and music educator. As a musician and teacher, Joel strives to balance life on “both sides of the fence,” playing in concert classical and jazz contemporary circles.

Joel became a bandleader and performing musician at the age of nineteen. With a group of his high school and college friends from Kansas City, Joel formed the Trouble Clefs: a big band that convened during summer and winter school breaks. Over the course of three years and twenty-five concerts, the group evolved from entertaining at a backyard pool party to performing at the Future Stages Festival in Kansas City, MO and the Trails West! Festival in St. Joseph, MO. In addition to participating in many of the Midwest's public university music programs, the fifty-plus members of the band have attended music schools such as Berklee, NYU, Princeton, Miami, and Yale. Many have gone on to pursue careers in performance, music education, composition, instrument repair, and audio recording. Trouble Clefs alumni have also gone on to be doctors, engineers, bankers, active military, and artisan coffee roasters. By experiencing the relationships with band members, families, and community born out of this venture, Joel was inspired to become a musician and teacher.

As a classical saxophonist, Joel was twice named winner of the Missouri Music Teachers Association Woodwind Soloist Competition. Joel regularly records and performs with {trés}, a piano trio consisting of two saxophones and piano, diligent in bringing baroque and classical era works into contemporary saxophone repertoire. The ensemble performed at the 40th Annual International Saxophone Symposium in Washington D.C. and will perform at the American Single Reed Summit in October 2018. As a jazz musician, Joel was selected as a resident of the David Liebman Saxophone Masterclass. In 2017, Joel recorded and released a full-length album with Kansas City-based jazz quintet, the Matt Cook Collective entitled “Along Those Lines.” As a part of the Collective, Joel has performed at venues throughout the Midwest such as the Green Lady Lounge (Kansas City), the California Clipper (Chicago), and Urban Artifact (Cincinnati). While on tour, the Matt Cook Collective has put on educational clinics for over 1500 public school students. Joel studied classical saxophone with Randall Smith and José Zayas-Cabán and jazz improvisation with Tim AuBuchon and Matt Otto. Additional instructors include Bob Long, Neil Ostercamp, and Tim Timmons.

Joel is passionate about advancing music through education. In 2015, Joel was named a Presser Foundation Scholar and was selected as a fellow in the TruScholars Research Symposium. As a private studio teacher, Joel's saxophone students have earned distinction both in the Missouri All-State Concert Band and the Missouri All-State Jazz Band. His private students have also been accepted into nationally-distinguished programs including the NAFME All-National Honor Concert Band and the Interlochen Saxophone Institute. Since moving to Kansas City in 2016, Joel began the Northland Student Jam Session, facilitating regular gatherings where high school students are coached on standard repertoire, improvisational language, and ensemble communication. As well, Joel continues to develop his teaching resource, *The (Young) Adventure's Guide to Jazz Improvisation*. Professional affiliations include Kappa Delta Pi, the Missouri State Teachers Association, the Missouri Music Educators Association, Phi Kappa Lambda, Phi Mu Alpha, and the National Association for Music Education. Joel studied conducting with Curran Prendergast and Thomas Trimborn; music education mentors include Jay Jones, Dan Peterson, and Jocelyn Prendergast.

Joel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music (2015) and a Master of Arts in Education of Music (2016) from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Currently, Joel is the Director of Bands at Platte City Middle School and is an Assistant Band Director at Platte County High School. Joel lives in Platte City, Missouri with his wonderful wife, Megan and their two curious cats Izzy and Ollie.

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Short Bio (150 Words):

Born in Iowa, grown in Missouri, and sprouting throughout the Midwest, **Joel Gordon** is a cultivating saxophonist and music educator. As a musician and teacher, Joel strives to balance life on “both sides of the fence,” playing in concert classical and jazz contemporary circles.

Joel regularly performs with {trés}, diligent in bringing baroque and classical era works into contemporary saxophone repertoire. The ensemble performed at the 40th Annual International Saxophone Symposium in Washington D.C. Joel can also be seen leading his jazz group “Joel Gordon’s Happy Habitat.”

Joel holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education (2015) and a Master of Arts in Education of Music (2016) from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Currently, Joel is the Director of Bands at Platte City Middle School. As well, Joel maintains an active private studio teaching jazz improvisation and classical saxophone. Joel lives in Platte City, MO with his wife, Megan.

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Media Clips:

Promotion Interview Video: {trés}

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aTV\\_qvwzbc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aTV_qvwzbc)

Live Performance Video: Joel Gordon Trio - “My Shining Hour”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YHNstds65c>

Live Performance Video: Matt Cook Collective - “Sauce” by Joel Gordon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmMjTJpU6HM>

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Notable Recent Bookings (past three years):

CLUBS/VENUES:

Westport Coffeehouse (Kansas City, MO)

Curtain Call Lounge (St. Louis, MO)

Des Moines Social Club (Des Moines, IA)

California Clipper (Chicago, IL)

Green Lady Lounge (Kansas City, MO)

Eighth Street Taproom (Lawrence, KS)

Urban Artifact (Cincinnati, OH)

Elastic Arts (Chicago, IL)

UNIVERSITIES:

Univ. of Missouri-Columbia (Columbia, MO)

Eastern Connecticut Univ. (Willimantic, CT)

NW Missouri State Univ. (Maryville, MO)

Mansfield Univ. (Mansfield, PA)

CONFERENCES:

Navy Int. Sax Symposium (Washington D.C.)

Amer. Single Reed Summit (Kirksville, MO)

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