

ANDREW HOMZY

Professor Emeritus, Concordia University • Composer • Scholar • Author • Director

703 Hecate Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 0J2 • 250-667-0238 • andrew.homzy@gmail.com • www.homzy.ca

PROFILE

Composer, scholar, author, educator, and director, Andrew Homzy is known internationally through his publications, concertizing, recordings, and conference presentations in the fields of classical and jazz music. He is considered a foremost authority on jazz composers Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus, Francy Boland, and Mary Lou Williams. His classical research encompasses Canadian violinist Kathleen Parlow, Maurice Ravel, and the history of violinists and their music.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, and educated in Cleveland, Homzy came to Montréal in 1967 to study musicology at McGill University. He joined the faculty of Concordia University in 1971, teaching full-time from 1977, and taught Jazz Studies there for 40 years before retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2011. Since relocating to Nanaimo, BC, he has continued an active career as a composer, arranger, producer, community leader, and scholar.

GRAMMY NOMINATION

Best Album Notes, 41st Annual GRAMMY Awards

Charles Mingus: Passions of a Man - The Complete Atlantic Recordings 1956–1961 (Atlantic/Rhino, 1997)

Liner notes by Andrew Homzy; Homzy also served as co-producer of the box set.

EDUCATION

Master of Musical Arts, Musicology

McGill University, Montréal, Québec • 1971

Thesis: "Jazz - Style and Theory: From Its Origin in Ragtime and Blues to the Beginning of the Big Band Era (1932)"

Advisor: Professor Marvin Duchow (Historical Musicology)

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses MK11411; full text deposited. The first thesis on jazz accepted at a Canadian university: no earlier one appears in Theses Canada or in ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, and the next recorded in Theses Canada is 1979.

Bachelor of Music, Major in Music Theory

Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio • 1967

Québec Teachers Certification, Secondary Schools

McGill University • 1973

Additional Studies

- Jazz Seminar, Summer 1969, New England Conservatory of Music, Institute at Tanglewood.

- Returned to Tanglewood, Summer 1970, for the classes of George Russell.
- Brass Seminar, Summer 1965, Cornell University. Studies with the New York Brass Quintet; tuba studies with Harvey Phillips.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Professor Emeritus (Retired 2011)

Concordia University, Montréal, Québec • Department of Music, Jazz Studies Program • 1971–2011 (40 years; full-time from 1977)

Key Responsibilities:

- Developed comprehensive Jazz Studies curriculum: Jazz Harmony, Arranging, Composition, History, and Ensembles, adapted to students' individual abilities and instrumentation.
- Founded the Andrew Homzy Jazz Orchestra (1984): 16-piece professional jazz orchestra dedicated to extended suites and masterworks from the jazz repertoire. Canadian premieres included works by Ellington/Strayhorn, Francy Boland, George Russell, Stan Tracey, and others.
- Conducted numerous concerts, radio broadcasts, and jazz festival performances throughout Canada and internationally.
- Consultant: Smithsonian Institution, Library of Congress, University of Toronto, Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Secondary School Teacher, Music

Montréal, Québec • 4 years

Instructor, Elderhostel Program

Concordia University, Montréal • 5 years

MAJOR CREATIVE & SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Charles Mingus: Epitaph Project (1984–2003)

1984

- Discovered Mingus's epic suite *Epitaph* while meeting with Sue Mingus at her Manhattan Plaza apartment, where she had lived with Charles in his last years. The work is now in the Library of Congress.
- Produced and published *More than a Fake Book*, a panoramic volume of 55 Mingus compositions, with Sue Mingus.
- Served as consultant for the Charles Mingus Archives, Library of Congress: responsible for the initial cataloguing and description of music manuscripts, beginning with his first contact with Sue Mingus in 1984.
- Wrote liner notes for various recordings of Mingus's music.

1993

- Spoke at the Library of Congress press conference (June 1, 1993) with Sue Graham Mingus announcing the acquisition of the Charles Mingus Collection by the Library's Music Division.

1996

- Conducted the Swedish premiere of *Epitaph* for Sveriges Radio (Swedish Broadcasting System), March 28, 1996.

2003

- Conducted the Italian premiere of *Epitaph* with an Italian all-star orchestra at the historic Teatro Metastasio, Prato, Italy.

Duke Ellington: Centennial Project (1999)

- Commissioned by Radio-Canada to form an ensemble of musicians from 15 countries.
- Directed two concerts in Montréal and Québec City (April 29–30, 1999) celebrating Ellington's 100th birthday.
- Transcribed and reconstructed familiar and rare Ellington compositions.
- Composed an original 4-movement suite, *Cent-Ellington*, for the occasion.
- Recording released: *100 Years of Duke Ellington*, European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra, directed by Andrew Homzy (Justin Time Records JTR 8476-2, 1999).

Duke Ellington Archives, Smithsonian Institution (1989–1998)

- Invited since 1989 as a consultant to identify and reunite musical manuscripts of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and others.
- Contributed to the complete cataloguing of the Duke Ellington Collection, published on the Smithsonian's website.
- Developed the database now used to reference these documents.
- Artistic Director, Ellington Festival, Cleveland, Ohio, October 1995.
- **Named collection:** *Andrew Homzy Collection of Duke Ellington Stock Music Arrangements, 1927–1960* (NMAH.AC.0740), Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, 1.5 cubic feet, 3 boxes.

Paul Whiteman Collection Research (1977)

- Conducted research in the Paul Whiteman Collection, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, leading to a conference presentation on the Ellington–Whiteman relationship.

National Public Radio, Tadd Dameron Concert (February 4, 1997)

- Researched and wrote the narrative script for an NPR broadcast concert devoted to jazz composer Tadd Dameron; provided most of the music performed.

Focus by Eddie Sauter, New Performance Edition

- Contracted by the Northeast Ohio Jazz Society to prepare a new performance edition of *Focus*, originally written for Stan Getz. The edition was performed with Cleveland tenor saxophonist Ernie Krivda.
- New edition published by Jazz Lines Editions, 2012.

Pointe-Claire Cultural Society, Québec, Experiencing Jazz Series

- Organizer, consultant, musical director, and lecturer for 16 presentations combining lectures and musical performances for family audiences.

CURRENT MAJOR PROJECT (2024–2028)

The King Oliver Creole Jazz Band Legacy Scores

A Critical Performance Edition of the Complete 1923 Recordings

Creating the first comprehensive performance edition of King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band's complete 1923 recordings (37 pieces), applying Early Music scholarly principles to jazz's foundational repertoire.

Status (February 2026):

- All 37 first-draft transcriptions complete (193.5 hours invested).
- Second-draft refinement in progress using audio stem extraction technology.
- Professional team assembled and working.

Project Team:

- Andrew Homzy, Editor / Principal Investigator
- Logan Moore, Associate and Principal Transcriber
- Charles Chen, Audio Technology (Microsoft Principal Software Engineer)
- Tom Roberts, Piano Specialist; Nicholas D. Ball, Drums; Cem Karayalçın, Banjo
- Ronan Lannuzel, Design (madebydesign.ca)

Estimated completion: March 2028. Publication: December 2028.

MUSIC PUBLISHING & ENGRAVING

- **Cleveland Chamber Music Publishers**, founded as a student at Baldwin-Wallace College; a catalogue of brass chamber music from duos to quintets, including Homzy's four-movement *Digressions for Brass Quintet*, arrangements of 16th–18th-century music, and works by fellow students.
- **Advance Music (Germany)** and **Hal Leonard (USA)**, commissioned in Montréal for editions of Charles Mingus arrangements; these remain in both publishers' catalogues.
- Engagement with music publishing began in his last two years of high school, 1962–63: produced a booklet of song lyrics, working alongside the printer's apprentice at the Linotype machine and learning how type was set, how a page was composed, and what a compositor means by “leading.”
- Early adopter of computer music notation, from MOTU Professional Composer through Finale, Music Prose, and Sibelius to MuseScore.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- The Ellington–Whiteman relationship, paper arising from research in the Paul Whiteman Collection, Williams College.
- Papers presented at six International Duke Ellington Conferences and four International Jazz Educators Conferences (travel grants awarded by Concordia University).

CREATIVE WORK IN NANAIMO (2009–2026)

2026

- Commissioned to write two arrangements of Joni Mitchell songs for the Sister Jazz Orchestra (SJO) with vocalist Jennifer Scott. Premiered March 7, 2026; subsequently performed by the Calgary Women's Jazz Orchestra and the Winnipeg Women's Jazz Orchestra.

2022

- *Disney Digs D'Jazz*, produced and directed a concert at the Nanaimo Port Theatre featuring 22 musicians including a tap dancer.
- *The Beatles Go To New Orleans*, Parts 1 & 2, wrote over 30 arrangements; produced a two-concert event at Fulford Hall, Salt Spring Island (June 4 & 5, 2022) with Andrew Homzy's NOLA NightHawks. A second edition of the two concerts took place in Nanaimo's Shaw Auditorium, May 18 & 19, 2024.
- *Jazz Jubilee* concert, Port Theatre, October 25, NOLA NightHawks.
- Arrangement written for the Victoria Jazz Orchestra, November 2022.

2019

- Commissioned to write two original works for the Saskatoon Jazz Festival: *Squelette Rouge* and *Feckless Fredrick*, both built on the six-note melodic fragment heard from beat 4 of bar 8 of *Freddie the Freeloader*. *Squelette Rouge* conflates Miles Davis's post-1968 electric direction with the hip-hop that emerged in its wake; *Feckless Fredrick* imagines an encounter between Ellington and Miles Davis.

2018

- Brass Quintet commissions: John Capon's Lowsome Brass and Foothills Brass Quintet.

2017

- Produced a concert celebrating the centennial of Shelton Brooks's "The Darktown Strutters' Ball" (recorded by the Original Dixieland 'Jass' Band in 1917), Canada's first internationally celebrated jazz composition.

2015–2019

- Founded the Nanaimo International Jazz Festival Association (NIJFA); served as President 2015–2019.
- Produced over 150 events; raised over \$600,000 for jazz programming on Vancouver Island.
- Founded Andrew Homzy's SAX NO END (2015).
- *Music in The Gardens* series, Anderton Therapeutic Gardens Society, co-produced with the Georgia Straight Jazz Society, August 9, 2015.

2014–2026

- Andrew Homzy's NOLA NightHawks (founded 2014), 10-piece ensemble dedicated to New Orleans music spanning three centuries. Numerous themed concerts throughout Vancouver Island, Victoria to Courtenay.
- Guest Director/Composer for the Victoria Jazz Orchestra.
- Produced three concerts by Trio Dinicu from Los Angeles (2013, 2014, 2018).

2013

- Arrangements for vocalist Karen Young and l'Orchestre National de Jazz de Montréal, performed at the Montréal International Jazz Festival.
- Arrangements for the Victoria Jazz Orchestra.
- Research and essay on Duke Ellington's 1945 U.S. Treasury broadcast, published as a booklet with a 2-CD set by Storyville Recordings, Sweden.
- Commenced transcription project: King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band 1923 recordings (see Current Major Project above).

2012

- Two compositions and six arrangements for four trombones and tuba written for John Capon's Lowsome Five.
- Louis Armstrong's "Cornet Chop Suey" arranged for six trumpets.

2011

- *The Queen, the Bear & the Bumblebee*, staged production by the Calgary Pro Musica Society (April 10, 2011). Music composed in 2001 by Andrew Homzy and Mark D. Goldman (book/CD package). Narrated by Samantha Whelan with four principal actor-dancers, eight child dancers, a 10-member children's chorus, four vocal soloists, and the 13-member Bumblebee Symphony Orchestra conducted by Claude Lapalme. Both performances sold out.
- Adjudicator, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Essentially Ellington 2011 Competition for High School Jazz Orchestras. Evaluated over 100 bands in three weeks, then travelled to NYC to select 15 finalists.

2010

- Founded the Nob Hill Brass Quintet (Paul Rathke & Garry McKeivitt, trumpets; Greg Roberts, trombone; Norman Abbey, French horn; Andrew Homzy, tuba). Composed and arranged extensive repertoire. Shaw TV (Channel 4) produced a 20-minute documentary.
- Composition: "Nob Hill Hob Nob", duet for French horn and tuba.
- Arrangements for brass quintet: "Scenes from Lakmé" (Delibes); "Menuet sur le nom Haydn" (Ravel); "Slavonic Dance Op. 46 No. 7" (Dvořák); "Musikalisch-türkischer Eulenspiegel" (Speer, 1688).

2009

- Research Consultant, Jazz at Lincoln Center (Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director): identified and assembled all music used in Ellington & Strayhorn's 1941 *Jump For Joy*. Research conducted at the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, and the Billy Strayhorn Collection, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Composition: "Le prix d'eau", for the Matheson/Roper/Mollerup Trio; presented by Vancouver Pro Musica at Vancouver Community College Auditorium, November 13, 2009.
- Presentation to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services protesting cuts to arts funding, Victoria, October 7, 2009.

SELECTED EARLIER ACTIVITY (MONTRÉAL, TO 2009)

- Freelance tubaist in the Montréal area: CBC radio and television, National Film Board, recording sessions, ballets, operas, and symphonic work at Place des Arts and other major concert halls in Québec.

- **Assistant Musical Director to Vic Vogel** for the 1976 Montréal Olympic Games; also served as tubaist, orchestrator, and arranger.
- Tubaist with Omni-cuivre Brass Quintet.
- Member, Vic Vogel Big Band, 1967–1982.
- Musical Director, Concordia Theatre Department: *Threepenny Opera* (Weill, 1980); *Into The Woods* (Sondheim, April 18 – May 4, 1996); *Celery Stalks at Midnight* (2001).
- Director, The Valentino Orchestra: produced three CDs and presented concerts including the Montréal International Jazz Festival (1997, 1998, Théâtre du Nouveau Monde; 1999, Main Stage).
- Director, Andrew Homzy's Selected Sextet; leader of The Peel Street Stompers, Sax No End, Thesaurus.
- Awarded multiple internal Concordia University research grants, including the Charlie Barnet Project (1994); travel grants to six International Duke Ellington Conferences and four International Jazz Educators Conferences.
- Contracted by the National Library, Ottawa, to research and assess materials by pianist Paul Bley.
- Contracted by the University of Toronto Music Library to assess scores by Grammy Award-winning arranger/composer Rob McConnell.
- Research consultant for the Glen Gray Collection of musical manuscripts, Northeastern University, Boston, November 5–14, 1990.
- Consultant, Classical Jazz concert featuring Ellington's music at Lincoln Center, New York, August 10, 1988.
- Founding Member and Board of Directors, Jazz Association of Montréal (JAM).
- Member, Board of Directors, Regroupement des artistes jazz du Québec (RAJQ).
- Organizer, Pointe-Claire Cultural Society's Experiencing Jazz series: 16 lecture-concerts for family audiences.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Reviews

- "Black, Brown and Beige in Duke Ellington's Repertoire, 1943–1973." *Black Music Research Journal* 13, no. 2 (Autumn 1993): 87–110.
- With Sjef Hoefsmit. Chronology of Ellington's performances and recordings of *Black, Brown and Beige*. *Black Music Research Journal* 13, no. 2 (Autumn 1993).
- Review of Ken Rattenbury, *Duke Ellington: Jazz Composer. Notes* (Music Library Association), 2nd ser., 48, no. 4 (June 1992): 1241–1246.

Essays, Editions and Liner Notes

- Liner notes: *Charles Mingus, Changes: The Complete 1970s Atlantic Recordings* (Rhino, 2023).
- Essay on Duke Ellington's 1945 U.S. Treasury broadcast, published as a booklet with a 2-CD set by Storyville Recordings, Sweden (2013).
- *Focus* by Eddie Sauter, new performance edition (Jazz Lines Editions, 2012).
- *More than a Fake Book*, a panoramic volume of 55 Charles Mingus compositions, produced and published with Sue Mingus (1984).

In Preparation

- "Django Reinhardt's 'Nuages': Within the Jazz Repertoire or Lost in the Clouds?", research article, for submission to *Current Research in Jazz*.

SELECTED RECORDINGS (AS DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / ARRANGER / LINER NOTES AUTHOR)

- Charles Mingus, *Changes: The Complete 1970s Atlantic Recordings* (Rhino, 2023). Liner notes by Andrew Homzy.
- Charles Mingus, *Passions of a Man: The Complete Atlantic Recordings 1956–1961* (Atlantic/Rhino, 1997). Co-producer; Grammy-nominated liner notes.
- Charles Mingus, *Thirteen Pictures: The Charles Mingus Anthology* (1993).
- Charles 'Baron' Mingus, *West Coast 1945–49* (2000). Liner notes: Andrew Homzy and Sunenblick.
- Mary Lou Williams, *The Zodiac Suite: The Complete Town Hall Concert of December 31, 1945* (Vintage Jazz Classics VJC-1035, 1991). Reissue co-producer, research, and analytical liner-notes essay.
- *100 Years of Duke Ellington*, European Broadcasting Union Jazz Orchestra, directed by Andrew Homzy (Justin Time Records JTR 8476-2, 1999).
- Andrew Homzy Ensemble, *King Porter Stomp: Homage to Jelly Roll Morton* (DSM3030). Live, Montréal.
- The Valentino Orchestra, *My Foolish Heart* (Just A Memory Records JAM 9125-2, 1996); plus two subsequent CDs.
- *The Queen, the Bear, and the Bumblebee*, book/CD package (music composed 2001 with Mark D. Goldman).

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jazz

- Charles Mingus: scholarship and performance practice.
- Duke Ellington: transcription and reconstruction.
- New Orleans jazz traditions (ragtime through swing).
- Jazz arranging, composition, and pedagogy.
- Historical performance practice in jazz (applying Early Music principles).

Classical

- Canadian violinist Kathleen Parlow, research paper on Parlow's career; appeared in a Norwegian documentary film on composer Johan Halvorsen, who wrote his violin concerto for her.
- Maurice Ravel.
- History of violinists and their music.

Methodological

- Practical Musicology: applying historical musicology to jazz.
- Transcription and reconstruction of historical recordings.
- Performance edition creation.
- Audio stem extraction technology for musical analysis.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

President / Founder, Non-Profit Organizations

- Nanaimo International Jazz Festival Association (NIJFA), Founder and President, 2015–2019.
- Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, President.
- Protection Island Neighbourhood Association (PINA), President.
- Wisteria Community Association (formerly Neighbours of Nob Hill), President.

Volunteer Activities

- Stone Soup (providing meals for people experiencing homelessness).
- Drug Overdose Awareness.
- Community First & Next Door Community (neighbourhood clean-up).

SELECTED WEB CITATIONS

The Canadian Encyclopedia: thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/andrew-homzy-emc/

AllMusic Biography: allmusic.com/artist/andrew-homzy-mn0001230123/biography

Grammy.com: grammy.com/artists/andrew-homzy/3893

Rhino Records, Mingus *Changes* box set: rhino.com/article/charles-mingus-changes

Presto Music review: prestomusic.com/jazz/articles/5354

Smithsonian, Andrew Homzy Collection of Duke Ellington Stock Music Arrangements:
sova.si.edu/record/NMAH.AC.0740

Personal Website: www.homzy.ca

Curriculum Vitae, Andrew Homzy, September 2026

Andrew Homzy. Curriculum Vitae, September 2026.