Butler University is located in the heart of one of America’s great jazz cities—Indianapolis. Our city has produced some of the greatest jazz musicians in the world (Wes Montgomery, J.J. Johnson, and Freddie Hubbard) and countless others who have been recognized for their brilliance in the field. To a great extent, the city of Indianapolis is our “campus” and its master jazz musicians our “professors.”

Students in our program receive high-quality ensemble experiences and numerous performing opportunities. Our jazz ensembles and jazz combos provide opportunities for students to hone their skills in both traditional and modern repertoire, as well as improvisation. Contact with world-renowned guest artists is a regular occurrence at Butler. Recent artists include Bobby McFerrin, Joshua Redman, Fred Sturm, Ted Poor, Melvin Rhyne, Robert Baca, the Wee Trio, Frank Smith, Mark O’Connor, and Donny McCaslin.

Our jazz faculty consists of nationally renowned performers, scholars, and educators. Students in the jazz area have extensive contact with professors in private lessons and classes with favorable teacher-to-student ratios.

Curriculum
Butler University’s BM in Jazz Studies offers a dynamic curriculum that is representative of the needs of today’s freelance jazz musicians. The degree combines a strong foundation in classical studies with coursework including:
• Improvisation
• Jazz Theory, History, and Arranging
• Applied Jazz Lessons
• Entrepreneurship and Career Development

Students in our program also enjoy performance opportunities in large jazz ensembles and combos.
Jazz Studies Faculty
Matt Pivec, Director of Jazz Studies; Saxophone and Jazz Ensembles
Gary Walters, Jazz Piano and Jazz Combos
Sandy Williams, Jazz Guitar
Jesse Wittman, Jazz Bass
Jon Crable, Percussion
Jared Rodin, Trombone
Allen Miller, Trumpet
Steve Allee, Visiting Guest Artist
Kenny Phelps, Visiting Guest Artist

Contact
Dr. Matt Pivec
Director of Jazz Studies
317-940-9068
mpivec@butler.edu

music &
Double Major.
Meet Brandon Douthitt.

“My career goal is to be a professional jazz saxophonist. The music faculty at Butler have been instrumental in helping me develop my craft, while the curriculum has given me the flexibility to pursue a double major in Recording Industry Studies. The individualized attention and guidance I’ve received at Butler has helped me achieve excellence in everything I do.”