

# James Auburn Tootle, Jr. (PKA James Auburn)

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## Detailed Curriculum Vitae

### TEACHING/CLINICS/PRESENTATIONS – Professional and Higher Education Sectors

#### **Abstract: Hip-Hop Historian/Clinician (Freelance)**

- Developed a comprehensive curriculum regarding the History of Hip-Hop. Teach expansive Hip-Hop and R&B repertoire for large and small ensembles and developing courses in the Evolution of Hip-Hop Production and the Analysis of Hip-Hop Lyricism. Available to customize curriculum in this area dependent on need.
- Possess a very expansive collection of rare Hip-Hop recordings and sample sources on vinyl, CDs, cassettes, DVDs, books, and press kits by Hip-Hop artists. Also own more than fifteen hours of Hip-Hop music videos that span the entire history of Hip-Hop. Collection of music in other styles is also vast.

#### **Guest Speaker – Hip-Hop History** (April, 2008)

*The Future of Music* (taught by Berklee Faculty member Isaiah Jackson)  
Harvard Extension School; Cambridge, MA

#### **Instructor: Survey of Pop Music, and Hip-Hop History** (August, 2006-present)

Audio Recording Certificate Program  
Boston University Center for Digital Imaging Arts; Waltham, MA

#### **Hip-Hop Director and Piano Instructor** (March, 2007-present)

The Vuk School of Groove, Cambridge, MA  
Teach private lessons and ensembles in Hip-Hop, Rock, Pop, Funk, R&B, Gospel, and Soul

#### **Guest Speaker – Hip-Hop History** (February 28, 2007)

*The Business of Hip-Hop*  
Presented by the **Music Business Department** at Berklee College of Music

#### **Guest Lecturer**

Suffolk University School of Government; Boston, MA (February, 2007)  
*Topic: Hip-Hop History and Culture [two lectures]*

#### **Presenter** (January, 2007)

Berklee College of Music: Berklee Teachers on Teaching Conference; Boston, MA  
*Topic: Diggin' in the Crates: A Journey through Hip-Hop History and Culture*  
Presented with: Ensemble Dept. faculty member **Danielle Scott** (Ensemble)

#### **Panelist** (September 29, 2006)

NEMO Boston  
*Topic: Creating the Power to Break You Free: The impact of music on popular culture*

#### **Presenter** (June 17, 2006)

*The Mass Industry Committee Hip-Hop Awards 2006*  
Back Bay Events Center, John Hancock Hall; Boston, MA

**Presenter** (January, 2006)

Berklee College of Music: Berklee Teachers on Teaching Conference, Boston, MA

*Topic: Berklee on a Mission: It's Not Just Jazz Anymore –R&B and Hip-Hop in the Core Music Curriculum*

Presented with: **David Cowan** (Percussion) and **Gilson Schachnick** (Ear Training)

**Presenter** (February, 2006)

Fisher College; Boston, MA

*Topic: The History of Hip-Hop*

**Historical Advisor and Cultural Resource** (Fall, 2005)

Semester-long research residency by a student from *Northeastern University*, Boston, MA

*Topic: Women in the Business of Hip-Hop*

**Interviewee/Resource: Hip-Hop Culture** (Fall, 2005 and Summer, 2006)

Journalism projects by students from *Harvard University Divinity School*, Boston College, *Emerson College*, & *Boston University*; Boston, MA

**Thesis Reader, Cultural Advisor, and Historical Resource** (2005)

Architectural Master's Degree Thesis by Norwich University student Brian Baril

*Topic: Hip-Hop Cultural Center*

Overview: The student's thesis project focused around a (hypothetical) design and model for a new Hip-Hop Cultural Center in Hartford, Connecticut. The student earned an A for the year.

**Substitute Private Lesson Instructor, Piano** (December, 2002)

Needham Music; Needham, MA

## TEACHING/CLINICS/PRESENTATIONS – Community Sector

**Piano Lab Instructor** (2006-2007 Academic Year)

Berklee College of Music City Music Mentoring Program

**Clinician/Literary Circle Discussion Leader** (June 24, 2006)

The Harlem Book Fair of Roxbury, MA (The Roxbury Action Program/ACGI)

*Topic: Hip-Hop: Is There a Consciousness in the Lyrics?*

**Volunteer Member of the Teaching Team and Library/Archive Project Team** (2004)

*Hip-Hop Mecca Afterschool Program*; Strand Theater, Dorchester, MA

**Guest Presenter** (November 28, 2004, March 28, 2005, and November 20, 2005)

*Critical Breakdown*; Boston, MA

## TALENT COMPETITION/AUDITIONS ADJUDICATION

**Competition Judge** (Fall, 2006-February, 2007)

iHigh.com *Spittin 16 and Pads n Keys* competitions

Alongside **DJ Premier**, **Algebra**, **Stephen Webber**, and executives from **VH1**, **Fuse TV**, and **XM Satellite Radio**

**Entrance Audition Adjudicator** (August, 2006)

The Berklee College of Music City Music Mentoring Program; Boston, MA  
Auditioned students on voice, piano, guitar, and drum set

**Scholarship Talent Show Judge** (June 23, 2006)

True Hip-Hop Culture Center at English High School; Jamaica Plain, MA  
Selected **Status Quo** as the winner (the troupe went on to star in **MTV's America's Best Dance Crew** as finalist)

## **MUSIC DIRECTION/BAND LEADERSHIP and LONG-TERM ENSEMBLES**

**Music Director, Composer, Keyboardist, Arranger, & Background Vocalist** (at present)

*Velvet Stylus* [R&B/Soul/Hip-Hop]; Boston, MA

- Named **Best R&B Group** in the **New England Urban Music Awards 2008**
- Opened with **DL** for **Royce da 5'9** (former **Tommy Boy** and **Sony** artist), **Joe Budden (DefJam)**, **Devin the Dude (Rap-A-Lot Records)** and **Dre Robinson (Universal)** at Middle East Downstairs, Cambridge, MA
- Played behind many of Boston's top Hip-Hop and R&B artists in numerous events
- Performed as backing band for national artists **Choklate** and **Medusa** at Middle East Downstairs
- Performed at the **Berklee Alumni Showcases**, Hard Rock Café Boston and **Harvard Square Oktoberfest 2006**
- Featured house band for events like **Hip-Hop Anonymous**, **Critical Breakdown**, and more
- Served as pit orchestra underscoring the entire **2007 MIC Hip-Hop Awards Show**; Back Bay Events Center, Boston backing **Universal Music Group** artist **Dre Robinson**, **Commonwealth Records** artist **Slaine**, **DL**, and more

**Keyboardist, Background Vocalist, and Horn Arranger** (January, 2006-present)

*Booty Vortex* [Funk/Disco]

Performs at several high-profile corporate and private functions including opening for **Joan Jett and the Blackhearts** for a private party at The Roxy in Boston

**Keyboardist** (May, 2005-November, 2005)

Beantown Project [Funk/Rock]

**Music Director, Composer, Keyboardist, Arranger, & Vocalist** (2001-2003)

*LuvJones* [R&B, Neo-Soul, Hip-Hop, and Reggae]; Boston, MA

- Appeared on *Exposure* – an AT&T Broadband cable access arts program
- Feature Subject of an *Emerson College* music documentary
- Opened for national R&B/Soul artist **Amel Larrieux** at *The Big Easy* (Boston, MA)
- Performed at a birthday party for *Lt. Governor of Massachusetts*, **Kerry Healey**

**Music Director, Composer, Keyboardist, Arranger, & Background Vocalist** (1995-2001)

*Mumbo Jumbo* [Funk, Blues, and Rock]; Boston, MA

- Opened for national recording artists **Vertical Horizon** and **Missing Joe**
- Performed at **Lolita's Love Fest** (sponsored by **The Noise**)
- Recorded at the Berklee Performance Center

**Music Director & Accompanist** (1996)

One-woman theatrical presentation by a New England Conservatory student

**Music Director & Accompanist** (1993)

Gulfport Little Theater; Gulfport, MS

**Keyboardist & Background Vocalist** (1991-1992)

Scoundrel [Rock cover band]; Biloxi, MS

**Music Director, Accompanist, & Actor** (1987-1993)

Center Stage; Biloxi, MS

## PRODUCTION

**Keyboard Arranger and Producer** (February, 2008-present)

Three song demo for **Derek Thompkins** [R&B/Soul] (includes keyboard performance)

**Music Director and Co-Producer** (in process at present)

Recording project with **Joyce Henderson** (Performance Div.) and **Robin Bailey** [R&B/Soul]

**Co-Writer/Arranger** (in process at present)

Velvet Stylus: EP [R&B/Soul] (includes keyboard performance)

**Co-Writer/Arranger** (2006)

“Walk Tall” (**Velvet Stylus**) Featured on **Project: Think Different’s The Power to Break You Free** compilation

**Arranger** (2005)

House of Woods: Songwriting Demo: Four R&B ballads

**Co-Writer/Arranger** (2002)

LuvJones: EP [R&B/Soul]

**Co-Writer & Sequence Programmer** (1997)

“As Sure as I Am” recorded by **Cheryl Doyle** at Bristol Studios, Boston, MA

**Co-Writer/Arranger** (1997)

*Mumbo Jumbo* – Don’t Squeeze the Shaman

**Sequence Programmer** (1992 & 1996)

Instrumental backing tracks for talent show competitors in Mississippi

## FREELANCE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

**Guest Keyboardist** (Summer, 2007)

The Crossing church at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; Boston, MA

**Keyboardist** (June 12, 2007)

Special event for Massachusetts Governor **Deval Patrick** [Gospel, R&B]

**Keyboardist** (February, 2006)

For bassist and Berklee Ensemble Dept. Faculty member **Lenny Stallworth**  
**Kraft Foods** Black History Month Private Function [Funk, Jazz, R&B]

**Keyboardist** (June, 2005)

For **Ladies Night** with **Nichelle Mungo** (Voice) and Berklee student **Jushea Rose** [Funk, Jazz, R&B]  
Presented by ***Vibe Magazine***-featured artist **Lee Wilson**

**Keyboardist** (February, 2005)

*Pauline's Stockpot Kitchen Fundraiser*; East Windsor, CT [Contemporary Gospel]

**Keyboardist** (2005)

Weather Outpost 12 [Blues, Jazz, R&B, Brazilian, World, and Gospel]

**Substitute Keyboardist** (July 8, 2004)

Hurricane T-K [Blues/Rock]; The Asgard – Cambridge, MA [Blues]

**Accompanist** (June, 2004)

*World Percussion Festival*; Berklee College of Music; Boston, MA [Funk]

**Substitute Keyboardist** (2001)

Hazie Maze [Funk/Rock]; Boston, MA

Performed at the ***Magic Hat Festival*** and at **Muddy River Smokehouse**, NH

**Guest Keyboardist** (2000)

Schedule 2 [Rock]; Three-song demo, Boston, MA

**Road Assistant** (1994-1995)

For Berklee Piano Dept. Faculty **Marc Rossi** with Voice Dept. Faculty **Stan Strickland & Ascension**

**Keyboardist** (1994)

Chris King's segment in the *Bass Showcase* at the Berklee Performance Center; Boston, MA

**Choral Vocalist** (1991 and 1992)

*Miss Teen USA*; Biloxi, MS) (hosted by **Dick Clark** and **Sandy Duncan** with other guest stars)

**Selected Choir Member, Tenor Section** (1991 and 1992)

Mississippi State Choir Retreat

**Pianist & Vocalist** (1990-1992)

Mississippi statewide talent shows

**Mississippi State Theatrical Competition Semi-Finalist** (1988-1989)

## **VOCAL ACCOMPANIMENT**

**Concert Accompanist** (four singers) (May 5, 2007)

*Berklee City Music Mentoring Program Recital*

**Accompanist**

For student of Berklee City Music Faculty **Kaime Massey** (Fall, 2005)

**Accompanist** (2005)

*4<sup>th</sup> Annual Roxbury 9-11/Katrina Tribute* (**Tri-Ad Veterans League** and **Boston Vulcan Society**)  
Accompanied **Darcie Wicknick**, former international recording artist and current Roxbury judge **Hon. Milton Wright**, and Coloratura Soprano **Velma DuPont**

**Accompanist** (September, 2004)

*Pine Manor College Alumni Dinner* performance; Newton, MA

**Accompanist** (May, 2004)

For students of Berklee Voice Dept. (including performance directed by **Anastasia Dolan**)

**Temporary Accompanist** (2001)

**Rachel Panay** [Pop & Dance]; Boston, MA

**Accompanist – Labs and Private Lessons (Work Study Position)** (1997)

Voice Department at Berklee College of Music

**Keyboardist & Accompanist** (1994-1997)

Several Berklee student performances and recording projects including **Jamilah Allwood (Harris)**, **Brian Glover**, **Cheryl Doyle**, **Nichelle Mungo (Jones)**, **Paul Akoury**, and **Norah Campbell**, among others

**Pit Musician** (1993)

Saenger Theater; Biloxi, MS

**Choral Accompanist & Jazz Band Pianist** (1992)

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at Perkinston; Perkinston, MS

**Accompanist & Choral Vocalist** (1988-1992)

*The Biloxians* at Biloxi High School, Biloxi, MS

Performed throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and in Washington, D.C.

## **JOURNALISM – Print and Broadcast**

**Freelance Contributing Writer** (at present)

MusicBizAdvice.com – a Music Business E-Zine based in Los Angeles, CA

Articles: An Interview with **Grammy-award winning songwriter Jay Graydon**; Interview with former **Sugar Hill Records** musician and current **Red K Records CEO Clayton Savage**; Profile: **Jaco Pastorius**; Profile: **Billie Holiday** [interviews were acquired by my direct outreach to Mr. Graydon and Mr. Savage]

**Historical and Cultural Resource** (Summer, 2005)

*The Heartless Stone: A Journey through the World of Diamonds and Desire*, a book by **Tom Zoellner** \*

*Topic: The role of diamonds in Hip-Hop popular culture*

\* Tom Zoellner also co-authored *An Ordinary Man* – the book that inspired the film **Hotel Rwanda**

**Reviews Writer** (May, 2005–December, 2006)

Okayplayer.com – the Official Website of Hip-Hop collective **The Roots**; Philadelphia, PA

This site also supports marketing for **Jill Scott**, **Erykah Badu**, **Common**, and many others.

**Contributing Columnist** (2001)

Gedup.com [Formerly *Funk vibe.com*] a European Funk and Hip-Hop site

Reviews include Parliament/Funkadelic, The Headhunters, the Jimmy Castor Bunch, and Zapp

**Host and Director** (2001)

WHRB at Harvard University – *Limelight Records*

Proposed the topic for the station's *Orgy* programming; Furnished many of the recordings for use in the program; Served as on-air personality and DJ for two-thirds of the three-day program;

Interviewed **Robin McBride** (President of *Limelight Records* in the 1960's) and **Cork Marcheschi** (Member of 1960's Psychedelic band **Fifty Foot Hose**) for the program

**Feature Editor, Review Writer & Feature Writer** (1997)

*The Noise*; Boston, MA

**Contributing Columnist and Student Representative to the Teen Advisory Board** (1990-1992)

*Mississippi Sun Herald* for Biloxi High School

**Editor & Weekly Columnist** (1990-1992)

*Hi-Tide* – Biloxi High School

**News Desk Host** (Mississippi local television) (1984)

*Small Fry News* – Popp's Ferry Elementary School; Biloxi, MS

## **SPECIALIZED ADMINISTRATION**

**Assistant Project Manager, Temporary** (at present)

Berklee College of Music, Performance Division, Boston, MA

**Co-Creator** (established 2006)

*The Best Way to Help the Gulf Coast is to Visit* – a Gulf Coast Tourism Awareness Campaign

**Volunteer, Artist Services** (September, 2005)

Berklee Faculty Hurricane Katrina Fundraiser Concert at Ryles Jazz Club; Cambridge, MA

**Co-Founder, Resident Hip-Hop Historian, and Clinician** (since October, 2004)

The Boston Hip-Hop Alliance

Functions: Assist with membership recruitment, seek out community opportunities that will benefit our members, aid in program development, and serve as resident Hip-Hop history expert. The BHHA holds nearly 500 members from a wide base of Hip-Hop professionals at all levels including celebrities. The roster incorporates artists, producers, teachers, dancers, record labels, production companies, theater companies, magazines, web designers, and more. The BHHA offers an extensive Print Media Archive, Hip-Hop Community Directory, History and Professional Development Workshops tailored for Hip-Hop Community, and helps build partnerships with many organizations and businesses in a variety of ways. The BHHA recently established a student chapter at Berklee as well.

**Hip-Hop Appraiser and Internet Auction Sales Administrator/Ad Writer** (August, 1997-May, 2008)

In Your Ear! Records; Boston, MA

Oversee much of the ad writing and auctions of items up for sale via eBay; appraise/price Hip-Hop music that comes in as well as some appraisal in other styles; process income receipts; track, process, and conduct shipping to customers; varied email correspondence; assist with store management and as with general operations/sales; extensive Data Entry and Internet research as well

as database program TurboLister, GarageSale, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Photo Editor, and Microsoft Excel; product merchandising to enhance sales.

## EDUCATION

**Berklee College of Music; Boston, MA** (1997)

Bachelor of Music, Professional Music

**Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at Perkinston; Perkinston, MS** (Fall, 1992)

**Piano Student** (1980-1997)

Private instruction with Ann Rawlins; Biloxi, MS and at Mississippi Music; Biloxi, MS

- Fourth-ranked piano student in Mississippi by the ***Mississippi Music Teachers' Association***
- ***Mississippi Music Teachers Association*** Scholarship Recipient (1992)

## ADDITIONAL AWARDS, ACTIVITIES, and HONORS

- **New England Urban Music Award for Best R&B Group**, 2008
- Boston Berklee Alumni Chapter Focus Group/Action Team Member (at present)
- **Berklee Alumni Grant 2006** Recipient for The Boston Hip-Hop Alliance and Gulf Coast efforts
- **Mass Industry Committee Award for Hip-Hop Community Service** (The Boston Hip-Hop Alliance)
- **Quill and Scroll** Member (1990-1992)
- Essay Award from ***Daughters of the American Revolution*** (1987)

## INSTRUMENTS PLAYED

- Acoustic Piano
- Clavi
- Digital Pianos (Korg, Yamaha, etc.)
- Ensoniq ASR-10 with Sound Module
- Fender Rhodes
- Tambourine, shakers, woodblock, etc.
- Voice (First Tenor)
- Yamaha Motif 6 and Motif ES6

## COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

- Currently learning ProTools, Velvet, BFDrums, Garage Band, and Moog Simulator
- Basic applied knowledge of HTML, Powerpoint, and FileMaker Pro
- Finale, Microsoft Excel, PhotoEditor, & Word, Teoria.com (Music Theory Web-based Software), GarageSale, and TurboLister
- Trainable in software and worked in Mac and PC environments and have seen Datatel Colleague in use

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES \* indicates Berklee Alumnus/a

- Nichelle Mungo \*, Instructor, Voice Department – njmungo@berklee.edu
- Jason Prokorym \*, Professional Bassist – prokorym@hotmail.com 617-461-2400
- Ralph Rosen, Media Center Manager – rrosen@berklee.edu x8338

- Gilson Schachnick \*, Assistant Professor, Ear Training – gschachnick@berklee.edu x8406
- Christopher Vuk \*, Owner/Director – Vuk School of Groove – 617-868-1118
- Darcie Wicknick \*, Classroom Facilities Coord., Academic Affairs – dwicknick@berklee.edu x2839