

# Denali Kauffman

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## Education:

*University High School (17<sup>th</sup> in public high schools in the US as of 2021)* Tucson, AZ 2017-2021

GPA: Unweighted: 3.767 Weighted: 4.133

*University of Southern California (Current)* Los Angeles, CA 2021-2025

*B.M Jazz Studies*

*Dainey Music Endowed Scholarship Pauline*

USC Current GPA: 3.83

## Work Experience:

**Professional/ Amateur Musician, TJI/USC/Freelancing in Tucson, Arizona and Los Angeles, CA** 2018-Present

**Music Teacher and Mentor (Thornton Community Engagement Program) (USC)** 2021-Present

## Activities:

### High School:

**Tucson Jazz institute, TJI, Tucson, Arizona** 2015-2021

Lead Trombone - Ellington Big Band (Top Big Band) Piano - Concord Combo (Top Combo)

**Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra, Tucson** 2019-2021

**Young Composers Project, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Tucson, Arizona** 2014-2015, 2018

USC: 2021- Present

**Lead Trombone and Pianist in Thornton Jazz Orchestra** led by Bob Mintzer

**Trombonist in the Concert Jazz Orchestra** led by Jason Goldman and Jon Hatamiya

**Trombonist/Pianist in advanced combos** directed by Russell Ferrante, Katie Thiroux, and Josh Nelson

**Trombonist in ALAJE (Afro Latin American Jazz Ensemble)** led by Aaron Serfarty

**Member of the Pop Horn Section** for Sophomore Pop Semester 1 and 2, led by Patrice Rushen, Sean Holt and Paul Jackson Jr.

### Non-Music:

**Eboard Member (Treasurer) of CLOVER** (Conscientious Living Organization - Veganism, Environmentalism, and Reducatarianism)

## Workshops (Participant):

**Summer Jazz Academy** (Audition Based) July 2019

One of 42 high school jazz musicians from around the world selected to participate in a 2-week intensive jazz program in New York. One of 4 pianists selected, played in 2 combos and 1 big band

**Vail Jazz Workshop** (Audition Based) July-August 2020

One of 12 high school musicians selected from around the country for a weeklong intensive workshop and training as a jazz musician. One of 2 trombone players and 12 high school musicians selected from the US. Studied with Wycliffe Gordon, among other legendary instrumentalists.

**National Youth Orchestra Jazz Ensemble (NYO Jazz) (Audition Based)**

June/July 2021

A month-long intensive in New York hosted by Carnegie Hall that takes 25 of the best high school jazz musicians from around the country to perform and record a variety of big band music. One of 5 trombonists selected.

## Performance Highlights:

2016-Present

2017, 2018, 2021 Essentially Ellington Competition - with guests Sherman Irby and Chris Crenshaw

2018 Midwest Conference – High School Big Band with Derrick Gardner and Chris Madson

2018, 2019, 2020 Tucson Jazz Festival -with guests Lewis Nash, Terell Stafford and Christian McBride

2019 Monterey Jazz Festival – TJI Concord Combo

2022 Performances at a private Hermes Event and Annual Geffen Contemporary Gala. Hired by drummer and Grammy winner, associate of USC, Gregg Field

2022 Performance in Palm Beach with the Funky Mama Allstars (led by previous producer of the Black Eyed Peas, Printz Board

2022 Elton John tribute at the Village Studios in Santa Monica with Flight of Voices led by Printz Board

## Awards and Recognitions:

**Essentially Ellington High school Jazz Competition in New York City sponsored by Jazz At Lincoln Center** 2017, 2018, 2021

– 1st Place (The whole band) in competition + Outstanding Doubler Individual Award (Piano and Trombone) and 3rd Place (The whole band) in Competition, Outstanding Trombone Section, Outstanding Tbone Solo, Honorable Mention Piano Solo

**Next generation Jazz Festival** 2017, 2019

- 3rd Place in Conglomerate Big Band Division (The whole band) + winner - Conglomerate High School Combo (Went on to perform at the 2019 Monterey Jazz Festival) + 3rd place in Conglomerate Big Band Division (The whole band)

**Northern Arizona University Jazz Festival** 2020

- Outstanding Piano Soloist with Concord Combo, Outstanding Trombone Soloist with Ellington Big Band

**YoungArts Foundation** 2021, 2022

Honorable Mention and Merit Awards in Jazz Piano, Jazz Composition, and Jazz Trombone