

Victor X. Haskins Biographies

Lengths: brief (129 words), short (228 words), full (911 words)

Links and contact info:

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/victorhaskins/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/victorhaskins/>

Brief bio (129 words):

Victor Haskins is a visionary, multi-instrumentalist, multidisciplinary artist, international performer, composer, improviser, bandleader, and educator.

Haskins has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., played concert halls and festivals throughout Virginia and Maryland, performed in clubs from New York to New Orleans, and taken his creativity and message of music education internationally to locations in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America.

Victor has been awarded grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and CultureWorks Richmond in support of his work with ImproviStory™ and Victor Haskins' SKEIN.

As an educator, Haskins directs the In-School Jazz Ensembles for the Kennedy Center, and teaches Jazz Trumpet, Improvisation, and the Jazz Ensemble at William & Mary.

Learn more about Victor and his work at **www.victorhaskins.com**

Short bio (228 words):

Victor Haskins is a visionary, multi-instrumentalist, multidisciplinary artist, international performer, composer, improviser, bandleader, and educator.

Haskins has been featured at the Henrico, Richmond, Elkhart, and Apex Jazz Festivals, the Kennedy Center REACH Opening Festival, Festival of New Trumpet Music (NYC), and the Christopher Newport University Trumpet Festival. As an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary artist, he designs powerful, sound-based performances through his original concept called *ImproviStory™*. Haskins has been commissioned to create work with ImproviStory for professional development seminars for arts teachers, for art exhibits, and for art festivals.

Victor has been awarded grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and CultureWorks Richmond in support of his work with ImproviStory™ and his progressive music ensemble, Victor Haskins' SKEIN. In 2019, Mr. Haskins released his 2nd album of his original music with SKEIN called *Showing Up*. He is currently in the process of recording over 25 of his original compositions for two separate, concurrent projects with SKEIN—those albums will be entitled *When What You Seek, Finds You*, and *Ikigai*.

As an educator, Haskins directs the In-School Jazz Ensembles for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and teaches Jazz Trumpet, Improvisation, and the Jazz Ensemble at William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. Victor Haskins is endorsed by Denis Wick mouthpieces and Eclipse Trumpets.

Learn more about Victor and his work, and purchase his music at [**www.victorhaskins.com**](http://www.victorhaskins.com)

Full bio (911 words):

Victor Haskins is a visionary, multi-instrumentalist, multidisciplinary artist, international performer, composer, improviser, bandleader, and educator. Haskins focuses on actualizing his singular vision of intimate group interactivity (both within the medium of sound, and across and between mediums), capturing his unfolding life story and insights as a person, and exploring the endless ways of creatively relating his perspective of the human experience to powerfully impact and inspire the world around him.

As a performer, Victor has been featured at the Henrico, Richmond, Elkhart, and Apex Jazz Festivals, the Kennedy Center REACH Opening Festival, the Richmond 2nd Street and East End Festivals, the Festival of New Trumpet Music (NYC), and the Christopher Newport University Trumpet Festival. He has performed in venues such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage (Washington, D.C.), the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts (Richmond, VA), the VCU Institute for Contemporary Art (Richmond, VA), the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA), Ewell Hall (Williamsburg, VA), the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Baltimore, MD), the Jazz Gallery (NYC), iBeam (NYC), Résonance Café (Montreal, CA), Diese Onze (Montreal, CA), Snug Harbor (New Orleans, LA), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, South Africa), and Teatro SESI Rio Vermelho (Salvador, Bahia, BR), amongst others. In addition, some of Victor's activities are supported by grants from CultureWorks RVA, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

As a recording artist, Victor Haskins released his first album of his original music, *The Truth*, in 2013 using all acoustic instruments. His second album of original compositions, entitled *Showing Up*, was released in February of 2019. *Showing Up* features his main working ensemble, Victor Haskins' SKEIN, and reflects his developments and experiments with a group sound that combines electronic sound design and live audio processing with intricate interplay. Haskins is presently in the process of recording over 25 of his original works as a part of two separate, concurrent projects for the SKEIN. One project is a collection of compositions which are based on his interpretations of rhythms from the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé, which he learned via studying atabaque drumming while visiting Salvador, Bahia, Brazil; it will be called *When What You Seek, Finds You*. The other project draws on internal and interpersonal work and research Haskins has completed in recent years (a continuation of the philosophical concept behind *Showing Up*); this album will be called *Ikigai*, which is a Japanese concept referring to something that gives a person a sense of purpose, a reason for living. Haskins won a grant from the CultureWorks Richmond Grant Program for the 2021-22 season to produce an album of with SKEIN.

Some highlights from Mr. Haskins' performance art career thus far include winning a grant from the CultureWorks Richmond Grant Program for the 2019-2020 season, which led to the creation and performance of multidisciplinary work "Be/Flow" by his ImproviStory™ unit in August of 2020. Haskins was selected to present an original, multidisciplinary work for 1708

Gallery's large-scale, light-based art installation for both the 2019 and 2020 editions of InLight. For InLight 2019, Haskins presented "Chimborazo, in Every Sense of the Name (1865-1866)", which is an exploration of the true story of Chimborazo as a refugee camp for newly-freed African-Americans in 1865 in Richmond, VA, and the conditions which precipitated the camp's demise in 1866. Haskins was also commissioned by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Performing & Visual Arts Magnet Program to create an original, multidisciplinary work for their teacher professional-development seminar in August of 2019. His creation, entitled "The American Way", examines lynching of African-Americans in post-Civil War America in relation to killings of African-Americans at the hands of police in the modern era. Haskins presented an updated version of this presentation called "The American Way (Hindsight is 2020)" and performed it at InLight 2020.

As an educator, Victor directs the In-School Jazz Ensembles for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and teaches Jazz Trumpet, Improvisation, and the Jazz Ensemble at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. Previously, he served on the faculty of the inaugural Izmir International Jazz Camp in Izmir, Turkey. Haskins has given educational presentations at institutions including (but not limited to) the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Performing & Visual Arts Magnet Program, the Jazz Education Network Conference, the University of Georgia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Royal Academy of Music (England), Conservatoire Nadia et Lili Boulanger (France), the University of Richmond, TEDxVCU, and TEDxLizardCreek.

Victor Haskins continues to compose and perform music as a soloist and as the leader of Victor Haskins' Skein, create sound-driven, improvisational art presentations (both live and virtually) with ImproviStory, and teach in both formal and informal settings in person, and on the internet. Most recently, Victor has assumed the position as Director of the Ewell Concert Series at William & Mary.

Victor holds a Jazz Studies/Performance degree from Virginia Commonwealth University where he completed the 4-year music program in only 3 years (the first and only person to ever accomplish this feat). Haskins was a member of the 2013 class of Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Residency at the Kennedy Center. Additionally, Victor placed 2nd in the National Trumpet Competition Jazz Division in 2012 and placed 3rd in the International Trumpet Competition Jazz Competition.

Victor is proud to be sponsored by Eclipse Trumpets, and Denis Wick mouthpieces.

Learn more about Victor and his work, and purchase his music at **www.victorhaskins.com**