

Victor X. Haskins

Musician. Artist. Educator.

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FULL BIOGRAPHY

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

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), 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), 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.

Haskins released his second album of original compositions (which features his ensemble, *Victor Haskins' "Skein"*), entitled *Showing Up*, in February of 2019. His current project for the *"Skein"* (soon to be recorded) involves a series of compositions he has composed based on his interpretations of rhythms from the Afro-Brazilian religion *Candomblé*, which he learned while visiting Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and studying atabaque drumming.

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, and teaches Jazz Trumpet, Improvisation, and the Jazz Ensemble at the College of William & Mary. 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 online.

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).

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