

Rick Keller

Jazz Artist · Composer · Producer · Recording Engineer · Educator · Author

M.M. in Jazz & Commercial Music Composition, UNLV · B.M. in Studio Jazz Performance, Frost School of Music

Las Vegas, Nevada richard.keller@unlv.edu saxsonic.com @rickkellersax

Saxophonist, composer, producer, recording engineer, and educator with a career spanning four decades and four continents. Adjunct Professor at UNLV's Division of Jazz & Commercial Music, and author of *A Creator's Practical Guide to Music Technology* (Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2026). Career highlights include Grammy® nominations, international performances with top ten recording artists, and curriculum development in music technology at the university level.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor — UNLV Division of Jazz & Commercial Music

2016 – Present

Las Vegas, Nevada. Teach Jazz Composition, Saxophone, Improvisation, and Music Technology. Composer, Producer, Recording Engineer, and Mixer of *HEROES* (2025, Grammy® considered). Recording Mixer for the DownBeat Award-winning UNLV Jazz I Big Band (2025). Author of *A Creator's Practical Guide to Music Technology* (Kendall Hunt, 2026). Founder, Saxsonic Music™. Master of Music in Jazz & Commercial Music Composition — UNLV (2019).

Session Saxophonist & Commercial Composer

2001 – 2016

Los Angeles, California. Premier session saxophonist and commercial composer. Performed with Lady Gaga, Frankie Valli, Barry Manilow, Natalie Cole, Christopher Cross, Jon Secada, The Temptations, and Christina Aguilera. Appeared at Radio City Music Hall, Royal Albert Hall, and Capitol Studios; on Grammy® and Latin Grammy® broadcasts. Grammy® nominated with the Chris Walden Big Band (2005). Founder, Moodbeat Music production company.

International Performer & Educator

1983 – 2001

Munich, Germany (fluent German). Performed across Europe, Asia, and Australia with Billy Cobham, Bill Bruford, Trilok Gurtu, Zakir Hussain, Joe Sample, and Chaka Khan, at venues including North Sea Jazz Festival, Blue Note Tokyo, Ronnie Scott's London, and Expo 98 Lisbon. Taught at New Jazz School Munich and multiple European institutions.

Foundation — University of Miami

1979 – 1983

Bachelor of Music in Studio Jazz Performance — Frost School of Music.

EDUCATION

M.M., Jazz & Commercial Music Composition — University of Nevada, Las Vegas

2019

B.M., Studio Jazz Performance — University of Miami, Frost School of Music

1979 – 1983

International Teaching — Europe

1983 – 2001

New Jazz School Munich · Remscheid Jazz Workshop · Salzgitter Jazz+Rock Workshop · Bavarian Jazz Youth Orchestra · Feierwerk Workshop · Media Academy Germany

PUBLICATIONS & SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

2026	<i>A Creator's Practical Guide to Music Technology</i> Kendall Hunt Publishing · Author · ISBN 9798319728371 · 25 chapters
2025	HEROES Vegas Records · Composer, Producer, Engineer, Mixer, Performer · Grammy® considered
2005	Home of My Heart Chris Walden Big Band · Featured Saxophonist · Grammy® nominated
2021	My Ideal Featuring Patrick Hogan
2020	Raga Chillin' Indian raga · bass clarinet and flutes
2020	Dolphin Dance Jazz fusion · Herbie Hancock inspired
2001	The Instigator Studio album · progressive jazz
1996	One Take Live at Unterfahrt Jazz Club, Munich

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Grammy® Nominated — Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album Lady Gaga · Harlequin · 68th Annual Grammy Awards · 2025 · Participant	Nevada Arts Council Grant Recipient HEROES Album Production · 2025
Grammy® Nominated — Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album Chris Walden Big Band · Home of My Heart · 2005 · Featured Saxophonist	Grammy® Consideration — HEROES Album Submitted August 2025 · Composer · Producer · Engineer · Mixer · Performer

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Royal Albert Hall — London, UK	Grammy® Award Broadcasts — CBS Television
Radio City Music Hall — New York, USA	Latin Grammy® Broadcasts — Univision Television
Blue Note — Tokyo, Japan	Capitol Studios — Los Angeles, USA
Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club — London, UK	Expo 98 — Lisbon, Portugal
North Sea Jazz Festival — The Hague, Netherlands	
Bratislava Jazz Festival — Bratislava, Slovakia	

NOTABLE COLLABORATORS

GRAMMY® NOMINATED PROJECT

Chris Walden Big Band — Home of My Heart (2005), Grammy® Best Large Jazz Ensemble

POP, R&B & COMMERCIAL

Lady Gaga · Frankie Valli · Barry Manilow · Natalie Cole · Christopher Cross · Jon Secada · The Temptations · The Four Tops · Christina Aguilera · Gloria Trevi · Chaka Khan

JAZZ & FUSION

Billy Cobham · Bill Bruford · Trilok Gurtu · Zakir Hussain · Joe Sample · Charlie Mariano · Claudio Roditi · George Russell · Al Porcino · Johnny Mandel

ORCHESTRAL & BROADCAST

London Symphony Orchestra · BBC Orchestra · Münchner Symphoniker · Grammy Award Broadcasts · Latin Grammy Broadcasts

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Instruments

Saxophone — Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone · Flute — Concert, Alto, Piccolo, Wood Flutes · Clarinet — B♭, Bass · Didgeridoo · Wind Controller · Electronic EFX · Keyboards · Percussion

Languages

English (Native) · German (Fluent)

Software & Technology

Avid Pro Tools · Finale · MuseScore · Dorico · iZotope Suite · Final Cut Pro · iMovie · GIMP · Adobe Suite · WordPress · HTML

Professional Memberships

ASCAP · MLC (Mechanical Licensing Collective) · AFM (American Federation of Musicians) · SoundExchange