

# Jazz OR BUST

## Tour revitalizes interviewer's faith in people

BY ARIANA DIAZ  
adiaz@oanow.com

After finding out he had to move out of his Brooklyn apartment, Jason Crane decided it was time to take his jazz interview show on the road.

Crane from Lenox, Mass., and father of two, Bernie, 9, John, 6, is the creator, producer, distributor and host of the online jazz interview show, *The Jazz Session*.

Homeless, Crane has been traveling the country for three weeks now by Greyhound and has been staying with friends, musicians, fans and complete strangers.

Before leaving New York, Crane raised enough money online to buy two Greyhound bus passes and book interviews and readings across the country in what is known as the "Jazz or Bust" tour.

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Jason Crane,  
creator of *The Jazz Session*

So far, he has traveled to Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., Virginia,

Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia and Auburn.

Friday and Saturday he made an appearance at The Gnu's Room in Auburn for a poetry reading and to discuss his experience with the tour to date.

"I've just seen some incredible performances and met some really amazing musicians just leaving New York," Crane said. "People I've probably, to be honest, would never have known to interview if I hadn't left the city."

Following Auburn, Crane will head to New Orleans, where he's never been, but says is one of the places where jazz first got its start and he thinks is one of the most amazing cities in the world.

Afterwards, he plans to tour the Southwest, West Coast, Canada and then head down into the Midwestern U.S. He also hopes to take his tour to foreign countries too, such as Switzerland, Denmark and Japan.

Crane himself began his career as a jazz musician, playing as a soprano saxophone player in Arizona, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Japan, which eventually transitioned into radio.

Since 2001, Crane has interviewed about 600 jazz musicians, producers and authors, including Sonny Rollins, drummer Billy Hart, pianist Vijay Iyer and guitarist Mary Halvorson.

"In 2007 I started *The Jazz Session*, completely with no budget," he said. "I sent out



Shown is Jason Crane, the creator, producer, distributor and host of the jazz online interview show, *The Jazz Session*.

an email to all the people I had known from my radio days saying I don't have any budget or any listeners, but if you could send some musicians my way that would be great and luckily people did."

As of today, Crane has produced 385 episodes and has had 1.9 million downloads of the show.

He said not knowing what each day brings and staying with complete strangers is 10 percent lonely, but 90 percent incredible.

"People who have never met me in their lives for whom I have never done anything and they're just doing it because they like what I do," he said. "I mean that stuff is amazing and it really just revitalized my faith in people and made me realize what I'm doing has value to people."

He said the tour has no end in sight. "At the moment I'm going to keep going for as long as I can and let's see what happens," he said.

### Auburn University

## Composer receives national premiere

Special to the News

Dr. Rosephanye Powell, professor of voice at Auburn University, will serve as narrator for her four-movement choral work "The Cry of Jeremiah" to be premiered at the American Guild of Organists National Convention at Belmont University Concert Hall in Nashville, Tenn., Thursday.

In addition to Powell, the performance will feature organist Dr. Gregg Bunn and the Nashville Chamber Singers and orchestra, under the direction of musical director Angela Tipps.

Invitations to compose for the bi-annual AGO conventions are a coveted honor granted to select nationally distinguished organ, choral and orchestral composers.

In November 2010, AGO

commissioned Powell to compose a multi-movement, sacred choral work that featured the organ in a prominent way.

The subject matter concerns the biblical character Jeremiah, a prophet of Israel who had been imprisoned, beaten and subjected to public ridicule because of his prophecies of doom for the nation of Israel.

In the four movements, based on the book of Jeremiah, Chapter 20, the prophet cries out to God, while experiencing myriad emotions, including anguish, betrayal, disillusionment and hope.

Powell's work is characterized by beautiful melodies, contrapuntal textures, rich harmonies, rhythmic vitality and passionate music that paint the drama of the text.

Bunn serves on the faculty of Belmont University School of Music. An active member of the American Guild of Organists, he has won first place in numerous organ competitions nationally. Since 2007, Bunn has served as organist of Brentwood United Methodist Church near Nashville.

The Nashville Chamber Singers have performed with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra at the Ryman Auditorium and recorded for National Public Radio's "Performance Today."

The *Cry of Jeremiah* will be premiered at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, followed by a second performance at 3:30 p.m. at the Belmont University Concert Hall.

For more information, visit [www.ago2012.org](http://www.ago2012.org).



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