

arts
education
njpac



ray

chew

the david g. berger
master class series

about ray chew

Ray Chew is an illustrious music director, producer and composer whose impact on the music industry and upcoming artists could not be overstated. Growing up in Harlem and the Bronx in the 1960s, Chew was surrounded by inspirational musicians and budding genres. After beginning music classes at age five, his musical journey showed promise at age six, when he received a scholarship to enroll in the children's program at the prestigious Juilliard School. Since he was committed to music from an early age, the Chew family ensured he received the hands-on learning experience he needed to succeed. Chew honed his skills as a musician at the Harlem School of the Arts and the Third Street Music School Settlement. Chew kickstarted his career as a pianist and arranger when he landed his first professional gig with Tony Award winner Melba Moore. By age 19, Chew was appointed music director by legendary Motown songwriting duo Ashford & Simpson.

Chew has contributed piano and arranging talents to numerous recordings, helping to create some of the most iconic songs in music history by Diana Ross, Luther Vandross, Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway. His performances with some of the world's most popular artists (including Rihanna, Pharrell Williams, Justin Bieber, Aretha Franklin, Lenny Kravitz, Pitbull, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson and Quincy Jones) have been immortalized in modern pop culture. Ray has also made a name for himself in the world of television. He was a member of the *Saturday Night Live* band in the early 1980s. He went on to become the music director for a number of high-profile shows, including *It's Showtime at the Apollo*, *Singing Bee*, *Sunday Best*, *Rising Star*, *American Idol*, *I Can See Your Voice* and *Dancing with the Stars*, the last of which he's been music directing since 2014. Ray's reputation as a music director has won him leadership for notable events, including Macy's 4th of July and Thanksgiving Day Parades, the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards, Harlem Week, the GRAMMY® Awards Premiere Ceremony, the NAACP Image Awards and President Barack Obama's Inaugural Neighborhood Ball.

Chew plays a foundational role as a co-founder and chairman of the Power 2 Inspire Foundation, which empowers young musicians and industry leaders. Workshops, lectures and master classes are available to the next generation of singers, songwriters, producers and business executives. Chew leads the RVMK Studio in Englewood, NJ, in support of the foundation. This cutting-edge and intimate facility nurtures and develops Power 2 Inspire alumni to produce top-notch creations and begin collaborating with other musicians.



accolades

- Music director for *Dancing with the Stars* from 2014 to now
- Music director for *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*
- Music director of President Barack Obama's Inaugural Neighborhood Ball
- Co-founder and chairman of the Power 2 Inspire Foundation
- Performed on *Saturday Night Live*

vocabulary

Arranger

Someone who takes an existing piece of music and adapts it for specific instruments or a different genre (i.e. turning a pop song into an orchestral piece)

Career

The some of a person's work experiences, skills and reputation they develop over many years

Composer

A person who creates or writes original music using notes, rhythms and harmonies

Consistency

The ability to deliver high-quality results every time, which builds trust with artists and employers

Instrumentalist

A musician who plays a musical instrument such as the piano, guitar or trumpet

Music Director

A professional who prepares and leads music groups, such as bands or choirs, for live performances or recording sessions. They identify artists, select the songs the musicians play and provide feedback to help musicians improve

Music Theory

The study of the grammar in music; understanding how notes, scales and chords work together. It provides a common language and "blueprint" that musicians use to understand, communicate and create the music we hear

Producer

A person responsible for overseeing and guiding the creation of a musical recording, shaping the overall sound and artistic direction of a song or album

Refining

The process of making small improvements to a performance or piece of music to make it as close to "perfect" as possible

Work Ethic

A belief in the importance of hard work and its ability to strengthen character or opportunity



“Work ethic is how you design excellence for yourself. **What is excellence for you?**”

— Ray Chew

seed questions to consider

1. What character traits (besides talent) do you think artists need to work in the industry and have a long-lasting career?
2. Starting today, what goals can you set for yourself to improve the quality of your own work?
3. How does "staying ready" differ from "getting ready" in the life of a professional artist?



resources

Websites

Ray Chew Live: All Things Chew
allthingschew.com/ray

Ray Chew: Jack of All Trades, Master of ... Seemingly All of Them!
internationalmusician.org/ray-chew-jack-of-all-trades-master-of-seemingly-all-of-them

Authority Magazine | *Social Impact Heroes: Why & How Ray Chew Is Helping To Change Our World* by Yitzi Weiner
medium.com/authority-magazine/social-impact-heroes-why-how-ray-chew-is-helping-to-change-our-world-83afc9079dc3

Multi-Talented Musician Ray Chew Opens Up On Road To Debut Album
msn.com/en-us/music/news/interview-multi-talented-musician-ray-chew-opens-up-on-road-to-debut-album/ar-AA1pgn7q

Music Director Ray Chew Releases Debut Single “Jam”
news.theurbanmusicscene.com/2024/08/ray-chew-releases-debut-single-jam

Top 12 NJ Arts Events of Week: “Tribute to Funk!” WBLs anniversary concert, Bernadette Peters, more
njarts.net/top-12-nj-arts-events-of-week-tribute-to-funk-wbls-anniversary-concert-bernadette-peters-more

Ray Chew and Vivian Scott Chew Honored by National Music Council | All Things Chew
allthingschew.com/news/ray-and-vivian-honored-by-nmc

Ray Chew Talks Musical Directing Aspirations for DWTS and Film-Scoring | TheGrio
thegrio.com/2022/09/26/ray-chew-talks-musical-directing-for-dwts-film-scoring-aspirations

Videos

Ray Chew | *Dancing with the Stars* MD
youtube.com/watch?v=nA-IXS0cvQQ&t=953s&ab_channel=TheCareerMusician

Making of DWTS: Music Director Ray Chew
youtube.com/watch?v=w1ww-yxMPKI&ab_channel=DancingWithTheStars

bring the arts to your school

In-School Residencies

NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development

Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

NJPAC Arts Education Berger Masterclass Series team

Dr. Sherri-Ann Butterfield

Senior Vice President,
Social Impact

Jennifer Tsukayama

Vice President, Arts Education

Rosa Hyde

Senior Director,
Performances & Special Initiatives

Dr. Patricio Molina

Senior Director,
Faculty & Creative Practice

Roe Bell

Director of Creative Practice
& Student Learning

Treasure Borde

Senior Manager,
Performances & Special Initiatives

April Jeffries

Manager,
Outreach & Sales Manager

Andrea Seigal

Teacher Resource Guide Committee

Sarah Mickle

Teacher Resource Guide Committee

Azriel Wallace

Teacher Resource Guide Committee

Rob Reddington

Teacher Resource Guide Committee

arts training for students

Saturday Programs

NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs

Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in our immersive programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.

contact us!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education

Major support for the David G. Berger Master Class Series is provided by the Berger Family Foundation

Additional support provided by:



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Leadership support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by the David G. Berger Family Foundation, The Berson Family, Judy and Stewart Colton, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Edmund A. Hajim, The Izzo Family, Merck Foundation, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Pershing Square Philanthropies, Prudential Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, Jon and Lizzie Tisch, P. Roy and Diana Vagelos, Victoria Foundation, Joyce and George Wein Foundation, The Josh Weston Family and Women@NJPAC.

NJPAC Arts Education programs are made possible through the generosity of our endowment donors: Judith Bernhaut, The Arts Education Endowment Fund in honor of Raymond C. Chambers, The Joan and Allen Bildner Family Fund, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Albert+ and Katharine Merck+, The Sagner Companies/The Sagner Family Foundation and Wells Fargo.

Additional annual support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by Judith Bernhaut, The Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., Jennifer A. Chalsty, Devils Youth Foundation, Don Katz & Leslie Larson+, F.M. Kirby Foundation, M&T Bank, McCrane Foundation, Inc., care of Margrit McCrane, NJ Advance Media, PNC Foundation, David & Marian Rocker, Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, Tracy and Theodore Spencer, Turrell Fund and additional generous donors.