



## Liz Townsend Quintet

### Supporting Musician Bios

#### **Grayson Nye**

Grayson Nye is a keyboardist, composer, producer, and educator based in Chicago, IL. Coming from a diverse musical background, Grayson's skills allow him to fit into any genre, from classical to jazz, R&B to hip-hop, or folk to indie. He is most notably known for his roles in the Last Gasp Collective, Fake Baseball, leading his own jazz groups, and working jazz musicians throughout the Midwest, collaborating with producers such as the Lasso, frequently subbing with the Founding, and managing and playing in the jazz fusion band Lushh. His unique style of playing comes from his various musical backgrounds, making him a sought after keyboardist across genres and regionally.

<https://www.graysonnye.com/>

#### **Ben Crino**

Ben Crino is a jazz guitarist in the greater Chicago area. Before moving to Chicago, Ben recorded two full-length albums, three EPs, and one single and has played a myriad of venues, festivals and shows throughout Michigan, Canada, and Chicago. Ben has received prestigious awards including the Holly Tarr Memorial Award and a Downbeat Magazine Student Award with the internationally-regarded Gold Company. Currently, Ben is pursuing his masters in jazz performance at Northern Illinois University for which he is receiving a full-ride scholarship while studying with world renowned guitarist Bobby Broom.

<https://linktr.ee/bencrino>

#### **Troy Robertson**

Troy is a multi-instrumentalist and producer from West Michigan. He is currently a second-year graduate student pursuing a masters in jazz bass performance. He has produced for Mercy Ent. LLC and Golden Dragon Record labels. He was a member Michigan-native jazz fusion ensemble Minor Element for seven years during which time they recorded two albums and worked with acclaimed artists including Kamasi Washington, Wu Tang Clan's Ghost Face Killah, and the Grammy nominated Eric Bellinger.

#### **Drew Deur**

Drew Deur is a drummer, composer, and educator from Holland, MI. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where he studied with Keith Hall, Matthew Fries, John Hebert, Andrew Rathbun, and Scott Cowan. While at WMU he received three Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards, once as a bandleader and twice with university ensembles. His major influences on the drums include Max Roach, Billy Higgins, and Bernard Purdie. Drew's experience as an educator spans numerous styles and ages; his students have varied in age from 5 to 78.