

Bio: Ryan Nielsen



Praised for the “breathtaking singing quality of his sound” by jazz icon John McNeil, and as a “musician of the highest order” by renowned orchestral trumpeter Charles Daval, Ryan Nielsen is a musician whose lyricism and versatility are rare, and whose artistry grows out of a love of groove, spirit, and beautiful melody. He began performing professionally at 17, and has since been a guest artist at concerts and festivals throughout the United States, including the Gene Harris Jazz Festival, the Sun Valley Jazz Festival, the Charlotte Jazz Festival, and the Grand Teton Music Festival.

Nielsen’s album, *Gift of Breath* (a joint project with his mentor, Ra Kalam Bob Moses) was selected by the New York City Jazz Record as a 2017 Recommended New Release. In 2016, he was named trumpeter with the Kobie Watkins Group. Their first album together, *Movement*, was released in 2018 on Origin Records. It received a 4.5 star review on All About Jazz, and was featured in the *Chicago Jazz Magazine* and *Modern Drummer*. His playing can also be heard on *Divine Colors* (Nielsen Records 2013), *Out of Nowhere* (Jazz Hang Records 2013), *Weeds in the Wall* (Nielsen Records 2012), and *A Summit Brass Night* (Summit Records 2008).

At Arizona State University, Nielsen studied with David Hickman, and was the recipient of the Doc Severinsen award for outstanding classical and jazz trumpet. He went on to pursue doctoral studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he studied with John McNeil, Ra Kalam Bob Moses, and Tom Rolfs. Nielsen’s love of teaching has garnered him a reputation as a passionate and inspiring clinician. He is currently Associate Professor of Trumpet at Utah Valley University.