

Corey Christiansen

Christiansen teaches at the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University where he influences generations of musicians through his teaching. However, for the purpose of this fellowship, he is an independent artist of the highest caliber. Corey's work as an active performer, a composer and recording artist, who self-funds his recording projects and holds creative control and responsibility for what he produces, makes his submission so compelling.

The timing of the fellowship is made significant by the fact that he has been awarded a full-year sabbatical from USU during which time he will be composing and recording.

Corey was born in Utah, developed his musical voice from this place, and has chosen to return with his family and remain where he contributes to its reputation as a place of great musical talent. To quote from a letter of support for Corey's application, Corey's "...musical material (is) representative of the American West and reimagines it in a modern jazz idiom. In so doing, the listener focuses on the innate vibrancy of the western tunes themselves and the ingenuity of their manipulation at the hands of Christiansen." Corey is an outstanding improviser, composer and performer.

I believe that Corey's work will help expand, deepen and shape music listener's impression of Utah's great musical vitality and richness.

