

About me:

Chicago IL native, Former U.S. Jazz Ambassador and two-time Fulbright Senior Music Specialist, Dr. Lenora Helm Hammonds is a tenured, Associate Professor and Graduate Director of Jazz Studies in the Department of Music., at an UNC-HBCU, North Carolina Central University (NCCU). She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in vocal jazz performance, ear training and songwriting, directs the NCCU Vocal Jazz Ensemble and has authored a number of academic and student initiatives, including the planning, design and coordination of an NEA-sponsored Teaching Artist Certificate program. She is a Duke University John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute Fellow, where she initiated her current digital humanities project; a website in development, GreatArtistsPastandPresent.org. The project is focused on creating a digital library of curated media and research materials of performing artists of all disciplines—particularly those with ties to North Carolina—to afford teaching artists resources to design residency program materials and curricula. (<https://www.nccu.edu/employee/lhelm>)

Her research is published by Springer, Routledge, and Taylor-Francis and spreads across the intersections of intercultural maturity, jazz pedagogy and digital humanities. Academic award highlights include the highest faculty honor, the 2021 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Javett International Jazz Scholar Award from University of Pretoria, South Africa. She records and performs under the name Lenora Zenzalai Helm, working as a vocal jazz musician, composer, and arranger. Composer highlights include jazz composer awards from Chamber Music America (CMA)/Doris Duke's New Jazz Works, CMA Presenting Jazz, a MacDowell Colony composer fellowship and creating the score for the children's play by Howard Craft, *Indigo Blue*. Film score projects include the independent film *After Life*, directed by Lana Garland, the documentary *Native*, directed by David zum Brennan, and scoring music for ESPN Black History Month ads. Joining her six previous critically acclaimed recordings is her seventh CD release titled *For The Love of Big Band*, and features her newly formed ensemble, The Tribe Jazz Orchestra®. Dr. Hammonds holds a BM in Film Scoring/Berklee College of Music, a MM, Jazz Performance/East Carolina University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education/Boston University.

[Visit her at www.LenoraHelm.com](http://www.LenoraHelm.com)

**Dr. Lenora Helm Hammonds**  
Associate Professor/NCCU Coordinator

