

## AEC Pop and Jazz Platform 2023

### Open Floor

#### **New Models for the Modern Conservatory**

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In many cases, music conservatory and university programs historically avoided being identified as trade schools and focused on technique, musicality, creativity, and other foundational musical principles. This left graduates solely responsible for honing and adapting their unique skill sets to the needs of available work opportunities. But competition today is greater than ever, and it's now accepted that music institutions bear significant responsibility to provide programs that prepare students for current work opportunities and connect them with working professionals without sacrificing those core musical principles.

This presentation will look at the challenges that building relevant programs presents, including ways to infuse coursework with real-world prompts that require a versatile musical skill set, as well as collaboration, communication, time management, and other "soft skills." We'll also discuss the need to identify and develop suitable faculty and the changes in how we audition and select students.