

# OLIVIA HUGHART BIO

Updated January 2022

Olivia Hughart is a jazz saxophonist/woodwind doubler, composer, and advocate, who is now a junior at NYU majoring in Saxophone Performance/Jazz Studies. She is a gigging and recording musician who plays with bands in New York City, Philadelphia, and beyond. She gigs regularly with Aberdeen the Band and the NYChillHarmonic. She recently recorded with the Grace Fox Big Band for their Debut Album, "Eleven O' Seven" which will be released in March 2022, and she recorded on a Sherrie Maricle Big Band project in the summer of 2021. Olivia played with NYU's Tisch New Theater Production of "Legally Blonde" in 2019, and was also a part of the WIJO performance of Alone Together during the pandemic. She is busy writing and rehearsing with her quartet, preparing her original compositions, which she says are influenced by some of her inspirations, including Maria Schneider, Geri Allen, Alexa Tarantino, among many others. She was a feature on the WRTI/NPR Music Live Sessions and was a winner of the 2021 Bruce Montgomery Foundation Springboard Grant. Olivia is a member of the Women in Jazz Organization (WIJO) and an intern with Jazz Philadelphia.

Olivia has been studying saxophone for twelve years and started her music studies in Philadelphia at Settlement Music School and in the nationally recognized music programs at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. She has studied with Larry McKenna, Chris Oatts, Andrew Neu, and Tony Miceli in Philadelphia, as well as with Dave Liebman, Billy Drewes, and Alan Ferber in New York City. She currently studies with Dave Pietro, Patricia Brennan, and Brad Shepik.

Olivia is the founder/artistic director of Key of She Jazz ([keyofshejazz.org](http://keyofshejazz.org)), which is an organization that supports and encourages girls to be involved in jazz starting in middle school. In 2019, as a high school senior, she organized the first-ever Key of She Jazz conference, which was attended by 200 students, educators, and musicians from the Philadelphia area and beyond. Since then, she has continued to organize virtual events that have allowed Key of She to reach global audiences despite the COVID-19 pandemic and having to cancel and reimagine live events.