

DEANNA WITKOWSKI
Pianist/composer/arranger/vocalist
New York, NY
deannajazz@gmail.com
deannajazz.com

Education

University training

- 2008: City College, MA in jazz piano performance
•studies with Mike Holober, Cidinho Teixeira
1993-4: DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, one year towards MM in jazz piano performance
•studies with pianist Larry Novak and bassist Larry Gray
1989-93: Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois; BM in piano performance
•studies with pianists Daniel Paul Horn and Bradley Williams; saxophonist Larry Panella

Additional training

- 2008: Vocal studies with Jocelyn Rasmussen
2005, 2006, 2009: Participant in California Brazil Camp, Cazadero, CA
•studies with pianist Jovino Santos Neto; guitarist Guinga
1999-2001: Studies with Brazilian drummer Vanderlei Pereira
1999: Participant in the Banff International Jazz Workshop, Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta
•studies with pianist Kenny Werner; trumpeter Dave Douglas
1996-2001: Occasional private studies with pianists Fred Hersch, Chucho Valdés, Hilario Durán

Recording

As leader:

- 2014 (forthcoming): "The Chopin Project;" solo piano arrangements of Chopin works
2009: "From This Place" (Tilapia Records); with Donny McCaslin, John Patitucci, Scott Latzky
2005: "Length of Days" (ArtistShare); with Donny McCaslin, Dave Ambrosio, Vince Cherico
2003: "Wide Open Window" (Khaeon World Music); with Donny McCaslin, Jonathan Paul, Tom Hipskind
2000: "Having to Ask" (JazzLine); with Jim Gailloreto, Jonathan Paul, Tom Hipskind, José Gregorio

As sideperson:

- 2013: "There You Are" with Idan Santhaus Jazz Orchestra (Posi-Tone)
2009: "Vipassana" with Joseph C. Phillips' Numinous Ensemble (Innova)
2009: "Edge of the Mind" with Schumacher/Sanford Sound Assembly (Beauport Jazz)
2007: "Uncle Wiggly Suite" with Billy Fox Ensemble (Clean Feed)
2006: "Great Spirit" with James Finn Quartet (NotTwo Records)
1996: "Fascinatin' Rhythm" with Rob Parton's JazzTech Big Band (ROPA)
1994: "We Belong Together" with Linda Tate (Southport)

Awards

- 2005: Grant recipient from New England Foundation for the Arts/Meet the Composer
2002: Winner of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, Jacksonville, Florida;
finalist in 1997 and 2000
2001: Finalist in the American Pianists Association's American Jazz Piano Competition,
Indianapolis; semifinalist in 1998

1999: Semifinalist in the Montreux Jazz Festival Piano Solo Competition,
1997: Grant recipient from the City of Chicago's Cultural Affairs Department

Selected performances

As leader

2014: Trio performance at the Jazz Education Network conference, Dallas, TX
2013: Mary Lou Williams Celebration (instrumental quartet and 12-voice choir), Park Avenue Christian Church, New York
2012: Solo performance for WXXI's "Live from Hochstein," Rochester, NY
2011: Solo performance of Chopin improvisations at Trinity Wall Street Church, New York
2010: Duo tour with São Paulo-based guitarist Filó Machado, Northeastern US
2010: Quartet performance at American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO
2009: Double-bill with John Patitucci at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL
2009: Chamber Music America conference showcase, New York, NY
2009, 2008, 2000: Trio/quintet performances at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC
2007: Duo and solo performances at the Recife and Paraíba Jazz Festivals, Brazil
2006, 2005: Quartet performance at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York
2006: Trio performances in São Paulo (All of Jazz) and Rio de Janeiro (Espaço Bis), Brazil
2004: Trio performance at the Tel Aviv Opera House, Tel Aviv
2003: Featured guest on National Public Radio's *Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz*
2003: Performance interview on National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Sunday*
2003: Quartet performance at International Association of Jazz Education Conference, Toronto
2003: Quartet performance at University of Delaware, Newark, DE
2002: Duo piano performance with Fred Hersch at the Jazz Gallery, New York

As sideperson and/or accompanist

2006-present: Pianist in BMI NY/Jazz Orchestra, led by Jim McNeely and Mike Holober
2008-present: Pianist in Vanderlei Pereira's "Blindfold Test" (Brazilian jazz sextet)
2013: Substitute pianist in the Westchester Jazz Orchestra, Irvington, New York
2013: Accompanist for Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Brooklyn, New York
2001-2010: Accompanist for voice instructor, Jocelyn Rasmussen
2008: Accompanist for Middle Church Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, New York
2007: Accompanist for Young People's Chorus, New York
2006: Accompanist for New Music New York (Anna Tonna, Maria Fattore, Zachary Stains)
2004: Pianist for vocalist Lizz Wright (European and American jazz festivals)
2000-6: Substitute pianist in DIVA Jazz Orchestra
2002-6: Accompanist at the Singers Forum (Johnny King, Vicki Stuart), New York
2000: Staff accompanist, Manhattan School of Music (Rhoda Levine)
1999-2002: Pianist in Gary Morgan's Panamericana Big Band, New York
1995-7: Pianist in William Russo's Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Chicago
1993-5: Staff accompanist, DePaul University (Harry Silverstein's Opera Workshop), Chicago

Sacred music

Staff positions

2012-current: Artist-in-Residence/Assistant Musician at Park Avenue Christian Church, New York
2004-6: Music director at Church of the Redeemer (Spanish and English services), Astoria, NY
1997-2000: Music director of All Angels' Episcopal Church, New York

Selected performances/lectures/interviews/articles

- 2013: Featured presenter at the International Thomas Merton Society conference, Fairfield, CT
2012: The Hymn (publication), pp 46-47: Reprint of "All Creatures of our God and King" arrangement
2011: Trio performance at Michigan Festival of Sacred Music, Kalamazoo, MI
2011: Keynote speaker at Shannon Lecture Series at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY (*Moving with the Spirit: The Sacred Art of Jazz; Beyond Words: Improvisation as Prayer*)
2010: Trio lecture/performance of *Moving with the Spirit: The Sacred Jazz of Mary Lou Williams* at the College Music Society Northeast chapter conference, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
2010: Performance at Boston College School of Theology, Boston, MA
2010: Presenter at Songs for Peace and Justice, Stony Point, NY
2010: Television interview on EWTN's *Faith and Culture*
2010: Lecture/performances at Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY
2010: Chorus member of *Gotham Scholars*, a 20-voice chamber choir; performances of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* in New York and Connecticut
2008-9: Lecture/performance with Dr. Tammy Kernodle: *Moving with the Spirit: Sacred Jazz of Mary Lou Williams*; John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC; Duke University, Durham, NC; International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) Conference, Toronto, Ontario
2009: Interview on National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Sunday; Interfaith Voices*
2007: Guest musician at Union Theological Seminary, New York
2006: Presenter/clinician at Calvin College Worship Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI

Teaching

- 2008: Finalist for full time jazz piano professorship at University of Music and Dramatic Arts, Graz, Austria

Staff positions

- 2007-present: Teaching Artist for the New York Pops
2009-present: Private teacher for the New York Jazz Academy
2011: Jazz choir director/founder at Notre Dame School, New York
2001: Faculty member of the Hartwick College Summer Music Festival, Oneonta, NY
1996: Piano/composition teacher at Kenya Highlands Bible College, Kericho, Kenya

Residencies/master classes

- 2010: Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
2010: Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY
2010, 2008, 2003: Boston Arts Academy, Boston, MA
2009: College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL
2006: Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
2005: Poultney Middle School, Rutland, VT
2004: Frauen Musik Woche, Frankfurt, Germany
2003: University of Delaware, Newark, DE
2003: University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX
2003: Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX
2003: High School of Visual and Performing Arts, Houston, TX

Judging/clinician work

- 2006: Great American Jazz Piano Competition, Jacksonville, FL
2006: Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
2008, 2004, 2001: Williamsville East High School, East Amherst, NY
2004: Southwestern Middle School, Jamestown, NY

2003: Adams State College, Alamosa, CO
2001: Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

Composing

2013: Semi-finalist for The American Prize in choral composition for SATB work, "Glistening Lily"
2003-5: Composer in the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, New York

Commissions

2010: United Methodist Women's Assembly (theme song for 6000 attendees), St. Louis, MO
2007: *Singing the New Testament* (two hymns), Faith Alive Christian Resources
2004: Concentus Women's Choir, Rochester, NY
2004: *Resources for Jazz Worship* (three hymns); Presbybop Music
2002: The Commission Project for the Webster High School Jazz Choir, Webster, NY
2002: Northwestern College Jazz Ensemble, Orange City, IA