

Bennett Paster

Keyboardist, Composer & Educator

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Bio (one paragraph version)

“Paster's hands have an infectious percussive exuberance.”

(Dan McClenaghan , AllAboutJazz.com March, 2005)

Keyboardist, composer and producer **Bennett Paster** is one of New York City's most creative and versatile musicians. He has performed original music at clubs, concerts and festivals in the United States, the Caribbean, and throughout Europe. He has been a featured performer with jazz stars Kurt Elling, Brian Lynch, Peter Bernstein, Rufus Reid, Bill Stewart, Billy Hart, Albert “Tootie” Heath, Ndugu Chancler, Miri Ben-Ari and Yosvany Terry among others. In addition to being a popular sideman, Paster co-leads several bands, all of which have toured and released critically-acclaimed recordings. His acoustic jazz piano trio, *Paster, Ryan & Hall* released their sophomore disc entitled “Invisible Horizon” in late 2006. This album showcases their broad vision of modern jazz and includes melodic original compositions and new arrangements of standards. Paster and bassist Gregory Ryan are founding members of *Grupo Yanqui* which performs original modern Latin jazz and classic Latin standards. This band was selected to tour internationally as a part of the prestigious US State Department / Jazz at Lincoln Center “The Rhythm Road 2006” program. They performed at concert halls, clubs and schools in Sweden, Russia, Estonia and Serbia. *Grupo Yanqui* released their sophomore CD “Grupo Yanqui Rides Again” in May 2008 on Miles High Records. Paster’s funky psychedelic organ trio *Organic!*, co-led with guitarist John Cabán, exhibits his formidable abilities on vintage electric keyboards and Hammond organ. *Organic!* performs live improvised compositions that are rooted in the tradition of 70’s instrumental funk and R&B. Paster recorded and produced their latest CD “Sweets” (2006) at his studio, Benny’s Wash ‘n’ Dry. Paster was a finalist in the 2008 Jacksonville Jazz Piano competition, held annually in Jacksonville, Florida, where he performed live in front of more than 1000 people. “My diverse musical background contributes to my personal style,” Paster said. “I thrive playing in many contrasting groups; I can’t choose just one style of music. My colleagues appreciate the broad palette of styles in which I am conversant. I always try to find the most appropriate sound to bring to any song or project. My motto is: serve the song.”