

Bennett Paster

Keyboardist, Composer & Educator

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Performances

Leader or co-leader:

- Paster, Ryan & Hall: co-led with bassist Gregory Ryan and drummer Keith Hall. This group performs original compositions by all three members as well as original arrangements of standards and other jazz compositions. U.S. concert and club performances
- Grupo Yanqui: co-led with bassist Gregory Ryan. This group performs original Latin jazz and salsa classics. U.S. and International club, concert and festival performances
- Organic!: co-led with guitarist John Cabán. This organ trio performs psychedelic, funky improvised compositions. U.S. club and concert performances
- Bennett Paster Trio, Quartet and Quintet: performs original compositions and arrangements of standards and pop/rock tunes. U.S. club and concert performances

Sideman and selected appearances:

- Selected concert appearances with Kurt Elling, Brian Lynch, Rufus Reid, Bill Stewart, Billy Hart, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Ndugu Chancler, Miri Ben-Ari and Yosvany Terry among others.
- Selected educational masterclass performances with Regina Cater, Houston Person, Jimmy Heath and Clark Terry among others
- Melissa Errico (musical director): U.S. club and concert appearances
- KJ Denhart: U.S. club and European festival appearances
- Jen Chapin: U.S. club and concert appearances
- Laptop: U.S. and European club appearances
- Multiple U.S. club appearances with Jodi Sheeler, Red Time, Brooklyn Boogaloo Blowout, Goats in Trees, Vanessa Trouble and Danielle Gasparro among others

Recordings

Leader or co-leader:

- Bennett Paster & Gregory Ryan: *Grupo Yanqui Rides Again*, Miles High Records 2008
- Bennett Paster, Gregory Ryan, Keith Hall: *Invisible Horizon*, PRH, 2006
- Bennett Paster, Gregory Ryan, Keith Hall: *Skyline*, PRH, 2005
- Bennett Paster & Gregory Ryan: *Grupo Yanqui*, Dandelion Grooves, 2001
- Organic!: *Sweets*, 2006
- Organic!: *The Undoing*, 2004
- Yes Virginia: *Overeasy*, Dandelion Grooves, 2000
- Brooklyn Above Ground (compilation, appearances with Organic!, Yes Virginia, Rozz Nash, Jen Chapin and Little Big Man): *BAG1*, 2001

Sideman: (selected discography)

- KJ Denhart (co-producer): *Lucky 7*, 2007
- Holding Back Entirely, *Holding Back Entirely*, 2006
- Amy Lennard: *Amy Lennard*, 2005
- Carl Clements: *Forth and Back*, 2005
- Red Time: *Colouring in Time*, 2005
- Neycha: *White Noise*, 2005

- Jodi Sheeler: Jodi Sheeler, 2001; *Mermaids*, 2003
- Sweet Cane: *Hit Not on da Radio*, 2003
- Teddy Goldstein: *The Love Lot*, Lookout Music, 2002
- Courtney Williams: *Storyteller*, Maewi, 2002
- Jen Chapin: *Live at the Bitter End*, Purple Chair, 2001
- Vanessa Trouble (producer): *The Summer Sessions*, (1999)
- Sessions as a sideman for: Lauren Hill, John Cruz, The National, Joe Clausell, Brian Bacchus, Adam Falcon, Greg Tannen, Craig Benelli and Aaron Morrill among others

Education

- **New England Conservatory of Music**
 - Jazz Studies: Bachelor of Music, piano performance, 1993
 - Studies with Dave Holland, Cecil McBee, Geri Allen, Paul Bley and Stanley Cowell, George Russell, Bevan Manson
 - Graduated with high performance and academic honors
 - Led Honors Jazz Quartet, 1992-1993
- **Tufts University**
 - Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, 1993
 - Mabel Daniel's prize in Literature and Music, 1993

Teaching Experience

- **U.S. State Department/Jazz at Lincoln Center's The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad:** Belgrade Music Academy, Belgrade, Serbia, October 2006; 2 week residency, jazz workshop for classical conservatory students
- **U.S. State Department/Jazz at Lincoln Center's The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad:** Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Serbia, various cities, February 2006; master classes and workshops in conjunction with performances on tour
- **Piano and group master classes:** Western Michigan University, 2005, 2007, and Albuquerque Academy, 2006
- **Stanford Jazz Workshop**, faculty 1988-present
 - curriculum consultant
 - director: piano department
 - master classes
 - private instrumental instruction
 - ensemble coaching
 - group classes in theory, ear training and improvisation
 - specialized clinics and concerts, solo piano and with groups
- **Thayer Academy**, Braintree, MA 1994-1996
 - Taught private piano and creative improvisation to students grades 6-12
- **Indian Hill Arts**, Littleton, MA 1995-96
 - Taught private piano and creative improvisation to students grades 6-12
- **Albuquerque Academy Summer Session**, Albuquerque, NM, 1991-1994
 - Director and creator of Contemporary Music program, including: Making your own Music, Jazz Workshop and Rock Workshop.

Awards

- Jacksonville Jazz Festival- Great American Jazz Piano Competition: 3rd prize, 2006, 2nd prize, 2005, 4th prize, 2004, 3rd Prize 2008