

# Bijan Taghavi

Pianist, Composer, Educator

## Long Bio (500 Words):

**Bijan Taghavi** is a pianist, composer, and educator who is "able to adapt to any musical setting" (Brett Ecklund/KX 93.5 FM Jazz Quest Radio).

As a leader, the **Bijan Taghavi Trio** toured **Japan** in December 2018, including performances at **Urayasu Concert Hall** in **Chiba**, **Live House ENN** in **Sendai**, **Live House ROXX** in **Aomori**, and **Nogata Kumin Hall** in **Tokyo**. Bijan also leads a Duo Series at the **National Arts Club** in **NYC**, where he has performed concerts with **Dick Oatts**, **Rich Perry**, **Jay Anderson**, **Ulysses Owens Jr.**, **Roxy Coss**, **Giveton Gelin**, and **Kiyoshi Kitagawa**.

As a sideman, Bijan has collaborated with **Rodney Whitaker**, **Randy Napoleon**, **Ron Carter**, **Stefon Harris** at the **Apollo Theatre**, and performed Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* with **Joe Lovano** at **Jazz at Lincoln Center**. Bijan has also performed at venues such as: **Blue Note Amsterdam**, **Beacon Theatre**, **55 Bar**, and **Minton's Playhouse Harlem**.

A sought-after composer and arranger, Bijan has written works for studio orchestra, big band, string quartet, and small jazz ensembles, including performing his original music at the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** a part of the **Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency**.

Alongside a busy performing career, Bijan is very involved as an educator for **JazzPianoSchool.com** having written over twenty articles and produced instructional videos for their **Artist Highlight** and **Gig Analysis** series'. Currently a **Graduate Assistant** at **Michigan State University**, Bijan has developed the curriculum for Undergraduate Piano, teaches classes in Beginning Improvisation and Advanced Musicianship, and works with private students.

Bijan was inspired to play the piano at the age of three from a film entitled *El Dorado*, which featured Bijan's idol, **Elton John**. Growing up in Laguna Niguel, California, Bijan was classically trained under the mentorship of **Robert Estrin**, studying the monumental works of **Rachmaninoff**, **Liszt**, **Chopin**, **Beethoven**, and **Bach**.

Together, Bijan toured with Robert a part of **Living Piano: Journey Through Time: Historic Concert Experience** where they explored the history of the keyboard in musical performance, dressed up in period costumes. Bijan played the role of “**Young Mozart**” by performing Mozart's works on the forte piano. They performed at many venues across California, including: **Schumacher Hall, Cal State Bakersfield, Hole Memorial Auditorium** at La Sierra University, and **Music Teachers' Association California**. Bijan also performed numerous classical solo piano recitals, accompanied **Metropolitan Opera** Singer **Eric Jordan**, and performed the Grieg Piano Concerto as a soloist with the **South Coast Symphony** as a first-prize winner of the **Young Stars of the Future Competition**.

Bijan's foray into jazz began his junior year in high school after a performance with **Grammy** Latin jazz Artist **Nestor Torres** at **SOKA Performing Arts Center**. Aided by his perfect pitch, Bijan proved to be adept at assimilating new styles of music. Soon thereafter, Bijan discovered the music of **Oscar Peterson** and **Kenny Barron**. A recipient of the **Presser Foundation Scholarship**, Bijan then earned his **Bachelors of Music** in **Jazz Piano Performance** at the **Manhattan School of Music** and studied with **Phil Markowitz** and **Fred Hersch**. [www.BijanJazz.com](http://www.BijanJazz.com)