

# Bijan Taghavi

Pianist, Composer, Educator

## Long Bio (600 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 collaborator, Bijan has worked with **Rodney Whitaker**, **Randy Napoleon**, **Ron Carter**, **Stefon Harris**, 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**, **Apollo 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 an **Adjunct Professor** of Jazz Piano at **Hillsdale College**. His experience has helped refine his comprehensive and unique method for teaching jazz piano, improvisation and harmony which he offers privately via video correspondence. He launched his unique **Personalized Video Correspondence Lessons** during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, where he has built an extensive lesson library of over 400 videos and PDFs and has an online studio of 40 students from **Spain**, **Canada** and all over the world. During the pandemic, Bijan was also a guest panelist for "**Hearin' The Changes**", Luther Hughes' weekly masterclass at **California State University, Fullerton** alongside renowned jazz educators **Bert Ligon**, **Bill Cunliffe**, **Chuck Israels**, and others. Bijan has taught classes in **Beginning Improvisation** and **Advanced Musicianship** at **Michigan State University** and is also an educator for **JazzPianoSchool.com** where he has written over twenty articles and produced instructional videos for their **Artist Highlight** and **Gig Analysis** series'.

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 as part of *LivingPiano: 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 fortepiano. 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 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 of high school after a performance with **Grammy** Latin jazz Artist **Nestor Torres** at **SOKA Performing Arts Center**. Aided by his perfect pitch, Bijan assimilated the music instantly. 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 his **Masters of Music** at **Michigan State University**; he has studied with **Phil Markowitz, Fred Hersch, Garry Dial, and Xavier Davis**. [www.BijanJazz.com](http://www.BijanJazz.com)