

**Greg McKenzie**, International jazz pianist and composer whose crossover from Chopin to Oscar Peterson was born April 26, 1962 in Trenton, New Jersey. He began taking organ lessons at the age of 10, and has embraced the music industry for more than 30 years performing, recording, and teaching. Growing up he played various woodwind and percussion instruments until discovering an adoring connection with the piano.

Music of all genres continued to play a crucial role in McKenzie's life and development. Before high school graduation in 1980, he was accepted into 'America's Youth in Concert' playing bass clarinet. This symphonic band also performed and recorded in Carnegie Hall before departing on a 4 week European concert tour.

After graduating from Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in 1984, he briefly moved to Washington, DC to finally collaborate and study with his mentor Dr. Billy Taylor. His obsession for Jazz piano performance grew tremendously stronger and managed to stay gainfully employed in hotels and clubs with his newly formed trio.

In 1987, he continued a musical journey to Los Angeles with a Lyricist pursuing a songwriting dream, but later was mesmerized with animation and begun studying film scoring and composition with Hollywood orchestrator Ron Gorow. Composition became a major part of his training and he enjoyed writing with actress / singer Nichelle Nichols from the popular TV series "Star Trek." In midst of a changing musical world that utilizes modern technology he was invited to Nashville, Tennessee by a recording engineer to record a Jazz Trio CD with "Mood Indigo" and thereafter determined to explore the New York jazz scene as a soloist.

After arriving in New York City in 1994 to perform at Windows on the World located on the 107th fl. of the World Trade Center, he incorporated his publishing company FingerNail Moon, joined ASCAP, and the Local 802 NY Musicians Union. From 1996, McKenzie produced his first CD entitled "Happy Endings" at Rainbow & Stars the cabaret adjoining the Rainbow Room at the top of Rockefeller Center. During his 3 year stint he has opened for Joe Williams, Vic Damone, Karen Akers, Anthony Newly, and Rosemary Clooney amongst many others.

It was not until after 1999, were he began traveling Internationally as a soloist to 5 continents including a solo piano concert tour throughout Taiwan concluding at the National Theater and Concert Hall, Taipei. Music consulting became an important role from 2001. He has orchestrated the best entertainment and hotel events in Asia and the Middle East.

Career opportunities during 2003 continued to develop, and after accepting a music directing gig for the newly opened Tokyo Grand Hyatt he met legendary saxophonist Sadao Watanabe. Their music connection has transformed into career highlighting activities including studio recordings, touring, and appearing both on national television & radio.

McKenzie's expertise to perform and produce the best international ensembles has proved to be successful and musically rewarding. *"The way I play is part of my personality. Every piece requires a different sound depending on the arrangement capturing a mood and feeling. The aim and goal is to inspire the listener for more."*