



Vana Gierig

plus Vana Trio
plus Brazilian Percussion

Workshops and
Performances
in 2010

VANA GIERIG is one of New York's premier jazz pianists. His illustrious career has rapidly been expanding in recent years, touring and recording with his own band. 2009 marked a widespread tour for Vana and his band and they were frequently joined by Paquito D'Rivera on several dates to perform Vana's compositions. Receiving great praise from fans and critics alike, Vana is quickly becoming the artist with whom to be acquainted.

His award-winning, virtuosic style and musical direction is recognized worldwide and has been integral to many international tours and recordings by artists such as Regina Carter, Rachele Ferrell, Lena Horne, George Howard, Special EFX, Najee, Warren Hill, Will Downing, Angela Bofill and many others. In September 2003, Vana was hired by Sex & The City (HBO) to compose a solo piano piece ("The Dinner") for their long advertised season finale with Mikhail Baryshnikov. His compositions have also been solicited by the Emmy award-winning PBS program City Arts and BET's Bet on Jazz, among others.

His countless live TV performances include appearances on PBS' An Evening with the Boston Pops, BET's Jazz Central, Treffpunkt Kultur on ORF 2 in Austria, CBS' 60 Minutes II, CNN and A&E live appearances; NBC's Today Show, FOX and Telemundo Live from the Blue Note in New York, Nancy Wilson's Show and numerous international TV appearances including Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Curacao, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, and England.

Vana teaches the following topics at his international workshops:

1. How to Control Improvisation & Accompaniment through Harmonic Manipulation.

This wide-ranging topic includes and explains:

- the use of Re-harmonization.
- how to change color in melodic improvisation thru harmonic manipulation.
- how to play 'inside' or 'out' by controlling harmony, from gradual to extreme.
- making melodic sense and controlling tension with melodic phrases which 'go out', by manipulating harmonic movements.

2. Purely Melodic Tools of Improvisation.

Controlling melodic color from Bebop to Modern Intervallic playing

- the chromatics of Bebop improvisation.
- a review of Modal Playing.
- Tetra- Penta- and Hexatonics: from McCoy to Chick Corea.
- Now what? Today's concept.

3. The use of Brazilian Percussion in a contemporary Jazz band.

- The role of the percussionist in a traditional setting
- Using Brazilian percussion in a non-traditional band setting, as in some of Vana's compositions fusing 2 cultures.
- Mixing jazz and funk with Brazilian rhythms: 2 cultures being authentic, and still fitting together.



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