

**RANDY PORTER**  
Pianist, Composer, Educator

**BIOGRAPHY**

Randy Porter is an Oregon resident well known for his fine jazz piano performance. Though his early years in San Diego were immersed in classical, jazz, and R & B, he did not receive formal musical instruction until high school. Porter credits the late Dr. Frank Marks at Humboldt State University for his classical training and musical inspiration. His jazz teachers at New England Conservatory, Fred Hersch and the late Jaki Baird along with Art Lande and Butch Lacey, also enhanced his musical scope. As a Steinway Artist, Porter draws from a rich palette of sonorities found within his imagination and the depths of the piano. As a jazz musician, Porter has a refined understanding of improvisation and the spontaneous communication between musicians. Lynn Darroch of *The Oregonian* states, “Porter has built a reputation as a musician’s musician, a knowledgeable, inventive, and sophisticated player with a remarkable sense of time and gorgeous keyboard facility...”

Randy Porter has performed with many jazz greats, including Freddy Hubbard, Art Farmer, Benny Golson and Wynton Marsalis. Porter has also toured with the Charles McPherson Quartet in China and Italy. The Charles McPherson Quartet has performed the music from the classic recording “Charlie Parker with Strings” featuring Porter as pianist/ arranger/conductor with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Chamber Orchestra. Porter also performed on the Charles McPherson CD, *Illusion in Blue*. Porter’s varied musical experiences include the Hollywood Bowl with Diane Schuur, the Monterey Jazz Festival and the San Jose Jazz Festival with Madeline Eastman, and appearances with the San Diego Symphony Pops and Oregon Symphony. Porter often tours Europe with Portland bassist, David Friesen and plays on Friesen’s latest CD, *Live in Stockholm*. Porter’s own recordings include *Brio* with John Wiitala on bass and Reinhardt Melz on drums, *Modern Reflection* with Nancy King on vocals, Leroy Vinnegar on bass and Mel Brown on drums, and *Eight Little Feet* with Bob Magnusson on bass and Joe LaBarbera on drums.

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

Randy Porter has toured internationally and/or performed with the following artists/ groups:

Charles McPherson	Karrin Allyson	Madeline Eastman	Ingrid Jensen
David Friesen	Art Farmer	Gino Vanelli	Leroy Vinnegar
Joe LaBarbera	Freddy Hubbard	Benny Golson	Mel Brown
Bob Magnusson	Diane Schuur	Anita O’Day	Nancy King
Peter Sprague	Eddie Vinson	Clifford Jordan	Dave Valentine
Sheila Jordan	“Papa” John Creach	Bill Watrous	Maria Schneider
Joe Diorio	Stephane Grappelli	Arturo Sandoval	Al Foster
Steve Kujala	Eddie Daniels	Harold Land	Rebecca Kilgore
Wynton Marsalis	New York Voices	Louisville Symphony	USC Orchestra
Cleveland Chamber Orchestra	San Diego Symphony	Fairbanks Symphony	Oregon Symphony

**WHAT THE CRITICS SAY**

“ . . . possessed of a fabulous technical command of his instrument, which in his case manifests itself not so much in rapid and glitzy runs as in subtler pianistic virtues: gorgeous touch, remarkable independence

of left and right hands, and seemingly effortless execution of his harmonically rich musical outpourings.”  
**Glen Good**

“I’m impressed with Randy’s great confidence, a confidence that allows the music to breathe deeply.”  
**Chuck Berg/Downbeat; Jazz Times; American Music**

### AWARDS

4 stars in the June 2002 Downbeat for the David Friesen Trio CD "The Name of a Woman"  
Winner of the 1999 Jazziz and Newport Jazz Piano Competition.  
In 1998 Randy became a member of the Steinway Concert Artists roster.  
One of ten winners of the 1995 Jazziz “Keyboards on Fire” Competition.  
Finalist in the 1986 Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition  
1982 Humboldt State Concerto Aria Contest winner and featured soloist in European Tour.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Randy Porter has adjudicated, taught master classes, and been a featured performer in college festivals, clinics, and summer workshops throughout the nation, including the Stanford Jazz Workshop, the Port Townsend Workshop, Jazz Camp West, Reno Jazz Festival and others. Porter has taught jazz piano, arranging and improvisation classes at University of Nevada, Reno 96-98, at University of Oregon 2000-2001, and he has taught jazz history at Lewis and Clark College 2003-2004. Randy is currently adjunct faculty at Lewis and Clark College and George Fox University.

### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

#### JAZZ

**Brio**, Randy Porter, John Wiitala, Reinhardt Melz; **Modern Reflections**, Randy Porter, Leroy Vinnegar, Mel Brown, Nancy King; **Eight Little Feet**, Randy Porter, Bob Magnusson, Joe LaBarbera; **Forest 4 The Trees**, Randy Porter; **Yonder Tree**, Gino Vanelli; **Slow Love**, Gino Vanelli; **Illusions in Blue**, Charles McPherson; **Live in Stockholm**, David Friesen **1,2,3** David Friesen Trio; **Castles and Flags**, David Friesen; **Tomorrow’s Dreams**, David Friesen; **The Name of a Woman**, David Friesen; **Something Old, Something New**, Stephane Grapelli and the Franciscan Chamber Players; **Unsafe**, Alan Jones Sextet; **Moments Like This**, Rebecca Kilgore; **Speed of Life**, Madeline Eastman.

#### GOSPEL

**Across the Bridge**, Randy Porter and Crystal Gray, **A Servant's Prayer**, Georgene Rice