

# Chris Donnelly

## Jazz Pianist



***“...listening to his music: one experiences intelligence, skillful execution, creativity and most importantly, an inventiveness that still acknowledges the jazz tradition.” - David Braid***

**Chris Donnelly** is a Toronto-based pianist, composer and improviser known for his musicality, versatility and ability to captivate an audience. He has had the distinct privilege of performing with Canadian greats Ted Quinlan, John Macleod, Adi Braun, William Carn, Quinsin Nachoff, Tara Davidson, Lina Allemano Heather Bambrick and Andrew Downing. As well as working with numerous musicians in a variety of contexts, Chris enjoys playing solo piano repertoire consisting of originals, jazz standards and other compositions with cross-genre qualities from Egberto Gismonti to Nikolai Kapustin. His talent, perseverance and good fortune have led him to perform in various concert halls throughout Toronto including Roy Thomson Hall, CBC's Glenn Gould Studio, MacMillan Theatre, Walter Hall and the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre in the new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. In April 2007, Chris performed at the Florida Theatre in Jacksonville Florida where he received 2<sup>nd</sup> place as part of the Great American Jazz Piano Competition. Most recently, Chris performed in Nottingham, England where he was selected as a finalist in the 2008 Nottingham National Jazz Piano Competition.

Upon completing his Masters of Music in Jazz Performance at the University of Toronto, Chris was awarded The Tecumseh Sherman Rogers Graduating Award for students 'deemed to have the greatest potential to make an important contribution to the field of music.' He previously attended their undergraduate program for jazz performance where he had the opportunity to perform alongside top international musicians such as Kurt Elling, Lee Konitz, and Rich Perry. Throughout his career at the University of Toronto, Chris studied with David Braid, Gary Williamson, Brian Dickinson, Paul Read, Kirk MacDonald, Alexander Rappoport, and Russell Hartenberger.

Chris is currently on faculty at the University of Toronto and has previously worked as a faculty member of the Humber College Community Music School, Prairielands Jazz Camp and the National Music Camp of Canada. In September 2008, Chris will be releasing a solo-piano, debut album featuring a blend of original material and arrangements of jazz standards. His future endeavors as a performing artist continue to look promising and is dedicated to bringing his music to a national and international audience.

***“His repertoire is extensive, his technique (particularly his independence of hands) is exceptional, his arrangements are original, and his improvisational skills are developed well beyond his years.” - Gary Williamson***