

Bennett Paster & Gregory Ryan



photo by Allen Murabayashi

Bennett Paster

Keyboardist, composer and producer Bennett Paster is one of New York City's most creative and versatile musicians. He has performed original music at clubs, concerts and festivals in the United States, the Caribbean, and throughout Europe. He has been a featured performer with jazz stars Kurt Elling, Brian Lynch, Peter Bernstein, Rufus Reid, Bill Stewart, Billy Hart, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Ndugu Chancler, Miri Ben-Ari and Yosvany Terry among others. In addition to being a popular sideman, Paster co-leads several bands, all of which have toured and released critically-acclaimed recordings.

His acoustic jazz piano trio, Paster, Ryan & Hall released their sophomore disc entitled "Invisible Horizon" in late 2006. This album showcases their broad vision of modern jazz and includes melodic original compositions and new arrangements of standards. Paster and bassist Gregory Ryan are founding members of Grupo Yanqui which performs original modern Latin jazz and classic Latin standards. This band was selected to tour internationally as a part of the prestigious US State Department / Jazz at Lincoln Center "The Rhythm Road 2006" program. They performed at concert halls, clubs and schools in Sweden, Russia, Estonia and Serbia. Grupo Yanqui will release their second CD in early 2008.

Paster's funky psychedelic organ trio Organic!, co-led with guitarist John Cabán, exhibits his formidable abilities on vintage electric keyboards and Hammond organ. Organic! performs live improvised compositions that are rooted in the tradition of 70's instrumental funk and R&B. Paster recorded and produced their latest CD "Sweets" (2006) at his studio, Benny's Wash 'n' Dry.

Paster won second prize in the 2005 Great American Jazz Piano competition, held annually in Jacksonville, Florida, where he performed live in front of more than 1000 people. "My diverse musical background contributes to my personal style," Paster said. "I thrive playing in many contrasting groups; I can't choose just one style of music. My colleagues appreciate the broad palette of styles in which I am conversant. I always try to find the most appropriate sound to bring to any song or project. My motto is: serve the song."

For more information about Paster and his various projects, please visit his website: www.bennettpaster.com or email wurliboy@gmail.com



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Gregory Ryan

New York City native Gregory Ryan has established himself as an in-demand sideman on both acoustic and electric bass. His big supportive sound, swinging style, complete understanding of harmony and role on the bandstand combine to create an ability to make even the most complex modern composition swing in the tradition of the great bass players. Mr. Ryan has performed with jazz luminaries James Williams, Mulgrew Miller, Jim Hall, Pat Martino, Benny Green, Billy Harper, Karrin Allyson, and Tom Harrell, among others. Mr. Ryan's growing Latin Jazz credits include performances with the Lincoln Center Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Arturo O'Farrill, Papo Vazquez' Pirates Troubadours, and Bobby Sanabria's Quarteto Ache.

Invisible Horizon, Mr. Ryan's most recent recording as a leader, is the second collaborative project with pianist Bennett Paster and drummer Keith Hall. The record features original compositions by all three musicians as well as a few choice standards. Tenor saxophonist Chris Cheek joins the trio on three tracks. This trio enjoyed critical acclaim of their debut CD, Skyline, described by Allaboutjazz.com as "a beautifully melodic effort, start to finish," praising the trio's "relaxed, optimistic, vivacious" sound; Modern Drummer states that the trio "radiate[s] warmth, vitality, robust melodicism, and an effortless swing."

Gregory Ryan also co-leads Grupo Yanqui with Bennett Paster. As exhibited on their 2001 self-titled debut CD, the Grupo skillfully balances original compositions by Ryan and Paster with Cuban and latin-tinged standards, drawing from Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and American traditions and influences. All Music Guide praises the record's "involved arrangements, passionate solos, and vigorous, spontaneous interplay, all with a melodic and cosmopolitan Latin funk touch." The Grupo has made concert and clinic appearances from New York to California since its inception in 1998. A quartet edition of Grupo Yanqui toured as part of the U.S. State Department and Jazz at Lincoln Center's The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad program in 2006, performing and conducting workshops in Sweden, Russia, Estonia and Serbia-Montenegro. Grupo Yanqui recorded its second CD in May 2006, featuring Paster, Ryan, Hall, trumpeter Alex Norris, saxophonist Chris Cheek, and percussionist Gilad. A 2007 release is planned.

Gregory Ryan uses AMT acoustic bass microphones.

For more information about Ryan, please visit his website: www.gregoryryan.com or email info@gregoryryan.com