

Continue



















## Seattle jazz academy

After years of traveling abroad I decided in 2016 to lay down some roots and open Seattle Jazz Academy. Over the years, even while traveling, I had taught a roster of private students from all over US, Asia, and South America who are now professional pianists gigging in various jazz scenes worldwide. Growing up, I studied classical music on the piano since age three and was grateful for my early instructors' guidance. However, as a teenager, I felt something was missing - music wasn't bringing me joy like it could have been. I would see friends playing guitar together and having fun, whereas I was stuck preparing pieces for recitals or competitions. In rural Washington State, I sought out Larry Kee, a piano instructor who'd spent years gigging as a keyboardist and organist, to teach me rock 'n roll so I could play in a band. He suggested starting with the blues, which revolutionized my approach to music and instrument. I quickly took to playing the blues and improvising, leading me into the world of jazz piano and harmony. As I continued studying, I found myself playing in ensembles, something new for me from my classical upbringing. Joining all music classes at school allowed me to play with others and have fun, making music a centerpiece of my life. Teaching music theory in practical ways and opening students' ears to improvisational music brings me joy. At Seattle Jazz Academy, we've created a community of serious jazz students who continually study, refine their skills, and explore the endless possibilities within the art of jazz. At Seattle Jazz Academy, we're all about creating a vibrant musical community where students and teachers come together to enjoy concerts, jam sessions, masterclasses, and music gatherings. Our founder, Mack Grout, is dedicated to helping his students develop their jazz and improvisational skills, inspiring artistic growth in the process. With over 20 years of experience teaching hundreds of students, Mack has helped many go on to study at renowned music colleges like Berklee College of Music and Cornish College of the Arts. As one of the premier jazz piano instructors in the Pacific Northwest, Mack offers private lessons and group classes for students of all levels at Seattle Jazz Academy. His school's mission is to foster a supportive community that encourages artistic growth through jazz and improvisational music studies and performance. If you're interested in studying with Mack, visit [www.seattlejazzacademy.com](http://www.seattlejazzacademy.com) or use the Contact Page to get more information and schedule an audition. Born in 1985 in Seattle, Washington, Mack began playing piano at just three years old. He studied classical piano until age 14 before discovering his passion for jazz and blues music. With scholarships from multiple schools, including Berklee College of Music and Cornish College of the Arts, Mack graduated magna cum laude from Cornish in 2008. Since then, he has worked as a composer, soloist, and band leader, performing nationally and internationally, while also teaching at colleges in the Pacific Northwest. As an instructor, Mack has mentored over a dozen students who have gone on to study music at high-level conservatories around the world. In 2016, he founded Seattle Jazz Academy to provide serious pianists with opportunities to develop their skills in jazz and improvisation. Mack is an exceptional piano teacher who has made a significant impact on his students' musical journeys. As Yotam A. notes, Mack's ability to answer questions and demonstrate techniques has been invaluable, allowing him to improve his skills as an intermediate player. Curtis credits Mack with helping him achieve his musical goals, including playing with others and creating music. Stan M., a 67-year-old student with a classical piano background, appreciates Mack's patience and inspiration, which have helped him develop his blues and jazz skills. Alexia praises Mack's ability to tailor his teaching to each student's needs and goals, making lessons highly beneficial. Mark enjoys the excitement of learning new things every week, often discovering new sounds and techniques that leave him amazed. John L. marvels at Mack's impressive musical knowledge and dexterity, while Naomi S. is grateful for the opportunity to pursue her lifelong dream of playing jazz piano. Steve B. highlights Mack's specialty in jazz and his patience with students of all levels, from beginners to advanced players. Josie has gained a deeper understanding of harmony and chords through Mack's teaching, discovering a new world of musical possibilities. Overall, Mack's students appreciate his expertise, patience, and inspirational approach, which have helped them grow as musicians and achieve their goals.