**Jeremy Siskind, Pianist/Composer/Educator**

Jeremy Siskind is poised to play a decisive role in the future of piano music.

As a performer, Siskind was a top finisher in the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition, the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, and the American Pianist Association’s Cole Porter Fellowship. As an educator, he serves as Chair of the Keyboard Area at Western Michigan University, has several educational publications with Hal Leonard, and teaches abroad in China, India, Thailand, Nepal, and Tunisia.

A native of Southern California, Siskind began studying at the age of four in the Yamaha Education System, a program that teaches composition and improvisation from a student’s first lessons. He became dedicated to jazz after hearing Oscar Peterson as a teenager, and studied with Los Angeles-based jazz pianists Linda Martinez and Tamir Hendelman. As a high schooler, he twice traveled to Japan as a winner of Yamaha’s Junior Original Composition competition and was recognized by ASCAP as a winner of their Young Jazz Composers Award.

At the Eastman School of Music, where he earned degrees in Jazz Performance and Music Theory, Siskind met jazz legend Marian McPartland who invited him to perform on her famed show, *Piano Jazz* in 2006. In his college years, Siskind was twice a second-place finisher in the Kathleen T. and Phillip B. Phillips Piano Competition in Pensacola, Florida and twice among the five finalists selected for the American Pianist Association’s Cole Porter Fellowship.

After college, Siskind moved to New York to pursue a degree in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University and study with legendary piano teachers Fred Hersch and Sophia Rosoff. While there, he released his first album, *Simple Songs (for When the World Seems Strange)*, which earned four-stars from *Downbeat* magazine. Featuring Chris Lightcap (bass), Ted Poor (drums), and Jo Lawry (voice), *Simple Songs* was named one of the year’s best by *Downbeat*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, and the Accujazz blog. During this period, Siskind also enjoyed stints as musical director for comediennes Lea Delaria and Sandra Bernhard.

Siskind made a sold-out solo debut at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall in 2012, performing Debussy’s *Etudes* in the first half and solo jazz piano in the second half. His simultaneous CD release, *Finger-Songwriter*, featuring Nancy Harms and Lucas Pino, was hailed in ecstatic terms as “one of the most remarkable recordings I’ve heard in a very long time” (*MinnPost*), “One of the best albums I’ve heard all year” (*emusic.com*), “the most exciting musical project I’ve heard in a long time” (*Jazz Police*), and “winsome…literate and spry” (*The New York Times*). Emusic.com placed it in its top 100 albums of the year (of any genre), and independent blog birdistheworm.com named the CD the fifth best jazz disc of 2012.

The band from *Finger-Songwriter*, the “Housewarming Project,” started touring in 2012, primarily performing in-home concerts. From the summer of 2012 to 2014, the band played nearly 70 in-home concerts in 18 states, making new friends and converting unsuspecting audiences into new jazz fans. Siskind us a major advocate for in-home concerts, speaking on the subject at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) conference in Chicago 2014 and the Jazz Education Network (JEN) conference in San Diego in 2015. The group was joined by some of the greatest jazz vocalists alive – Kendra Shank, Peter Eldridge, and Kurt Elling – to record *Housewarming* (2015), an album that features nine new Siskind songs as well as four covers.

Siskind is an active author for Hal Leonard, having published books of original compositions (*Jazz Etude Inspirations*), and arrangements (*The Magic of Standards*), four-hand piano music (*Double Agent*), and a major instructional book (*Jazz Band Pianist*). As a pedagogue, Siskind is a frequent clinician for Hal Leonard, a regular contributor to *Clavier Companion* magazine, an instructor at the International Institute for Young Musicians summer camp, and a frequent instructor in Asia with Jazz Education Abroad. He has served as the Artistic Director for the American Jazz Pianist Competition in Melbourne, Florida since its inaugural year in 2014, helping to give younger pianists an opportunity to interact and secure important funding. Siskind has given masterclasses at the Eastman School of Music, University of California, Irvine, Bucknell University, Bethune-Cookman University, Indiana University, Butler University, Iowa Wesleyan University, Saddleback College, and the Interlochen Arts Academy. Jeremy Siskind is a Yamaha artist.