



Bob Albanese

Jazz pianist/composer/arranger/conductor/lyricist/educator

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Pianist, composer, educator Bob Albanese, a native of Newark, NJ, began playing piano at age 8, and by the age of 14 won top prize at the Garden State Arts Festival. A natural on the piano, he is equally at home in jazz, Latin, world, classical and theatrical musical settings. Albanese works with a wide stylistic cross section of artists. Some of the notables he has performed, arranged and/or recorded with include Anita O'Day, Buddy Rich, Warne Marsh, Ira Sullivan, Freddie Hubbard, Ralph Moore, Dennis Irwin, Ratzo Harris, John Benitez, Ray Mantilla, Gil Goldstein, Steve Kuhn, Bill Mays, Karrin Allison, Roseanna Vitro, Sean Smith, Brian Lynch, Bobby Sanabria, Steve Slagle, Bob Mover, Esperanza Spaulding, Joe Beck, Ali Ryerson, Victor Jones, Datevik Hovanesian, Rita Moreno, Harvie S, Ben Vereen, Leslie Uggams & Bill Watrous. He has been based in New York since 1980, but has also spend a fair amount of time on the road performing all over the continental U.S. and Hawaii (where he stayed for 2 years in the mid '90's), Europe, Japan, Russia, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. While in Hawaii he acted as pianist for the Honolulu Symphony Pops and did numerous recordings and live performances with local and national artists including Phil Woods, Jack Elliot, Branford Marsalis and James Ingram. While there, he also recorded his first solo album as songwriter/multi keyboardist and vocalist entitled "The Love Within" for the Tropicool Jazz Label. His longest stint of steady employment in N.Y.C. came in 1989 when he was hired as house pianist at the legendary Rainbow Room, playing there for a number of years as alternating Latin and American Jazz pianist. He also performed there as a solo pianist for some time upon returning to NYC from Hawaii. In 2003, he was selected to serve the U.S.A. as a Jazz Ambassador and led his band, Café Simpatico in performance, workshops and cultural exchange throughout war torn former Yugoslavia. He is presently accompanist for Ben Vereen and performs with him regularly as musical director, group pianist and as solo accompanist for Mr. Vereen's keynote speaking/performing engagements. He has taught at NYU Steinhart School and Five Towns College. Conversely, Albanese, a perpetual student, was granted a full scholarship in 2002 to complete a B.M. and M.M. at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music in Jazz Composition. While under the M.S.M. umbrella composed a number of new works including a Jazz Philharmonic piece entitled Samba Esperança that was performed by the Cincinnati Conservatory Philharmonic in April of 2006. He completed his formal degrees, BM and MM in May 2006 graduating with honors, receiving the William C. Borden award [for outstanding achievement in the field of Jazz]. He has composed a number of original works including songs with lyrics, jazz tunes, pieces for Philharmonic Orchestra and numerous pieces for Jazz Orchestra. In July of 2007, Albanese was selected to compose and conduct the music for the World Travel Awards in Abu Dhabi. His most recent recording as a leader entitled "One Way/Detour" on ZOHO is a small group recording that includes Tom Kennedy on Bass and Willard Dyson on drums as well as special featured soloist, legendary multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan. Recorded in January of 2008, it includes a number of Albanese originals and a few standards and has received a wide range of critical acclaim as well as airplay on Jazz radio stations throughout the world, including WBGO fm. In March of 2009, Albanese embarked on a series of solo concerts in Germany in friendly cooperation with Steinway and Sons. In November of 2009, The Bob Albanese trio performed at the Pristina Jazz Festival in the newly declared sovereignty of Kosovo in former Yugoslavia, funded through a grant from the United States Embassy. Albanese is married to Jennifer Freedman Albanese and has a 5-year-old son named Louis Cole. He teaches privately in his studio in Riverdale, N.Y. and is equipped and available for videoconference clinics and teaches and conducts workshops worldwide.