

Kevin Hays

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Kevin Hays is a jazz pianist born May 1, 1968 in New York City. He was raised however in Greenwich, Connecticut, but much of his career was after he returned to New York City. He is known for the "Kevin Hays Trio" and being in the Bill Stewart Trio. McCoy Tyner and Bill Evans are influences on him.

External links

- BBC Radio 2 (http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/music/muze/index.pl?site=radio2&action=biography&artist_id=13305&rand=)
- Music Eyes record label (<http://www.musiceyes.com/>)

Featured on dozens of recordings with a variety of leading jazz artists, 10 CDs as a leader himself, 3 included on the renowned Blue Note Records, Kevin Hays is amongst the most brilliant pianist/keyboardists and composers in the current international jazz panorama.

Born in New York City (May 1, 1968) but raised in Greenwich, Connecticut, this refined piano player has employed his workmanship playing with Sonny Rollins, Benny Golson, Ron Carter, Joe Henderson, Roy Haynes, John Scofield, Donald Harrison, Chris Potter, Al Foster, Buster Williams, Art Farmer. He began studying piano at the age of 6 and was playing professionally by 15, finding himself two years later, playing with baritone saxophonist Nick Brignola. After spending a year at The Manhattan School of Music to perfect his skills, he began travelling around the U.S., Japan, and Europe with various bands, including The Harper Brothers, Benny Golson, Joe Henderson and Eddie Gomez. In 1994 he signed a contract with Blue Note, releasing 3 recordings which received favourable opinion by the press and from specialized critics. His "Seventh Sense" (1994), praised by The New York Times, was recognized as one of the 'Top 40 Jazz Releases of the Year' by Musician Magazine, and "Andalucia" (1997), featuring Ron Carter and Jack DeJohnette, was voted at four stars by DownBeat Magazine. But 1995 is the year when the great Sonny Rollins invited Kevin to join his group, and a year and a half later guitarist John Scofield wanted him to tour in his celebrated "Quiet" band.

Today, Kevin continues to perform worldwide in solo concerts and as a member of The Sangha Quartet, which features young and well known overseas jazz players such as Seamus Blake (tenor sax), Larry Grenadier (double bass), and Bill Stewart (drums): with this quartet he has recorded "Fear of Roaming", where he contributed five compositions and one arrangement. Yet, the group that characterizes him best is his own trio, which lines up as permanent elements bass player Doug Weiss and Bill Stewart on drums: on its recordings with the Kevin Hays Trio (the latest release is For Heaven's Sake, JazzEyes) he proves his fine penchant for arrangements, a mature awareness of his talent, a great sensitiveness and a high-leveled piano technique drawing close to names like Bill Evans and McCoy Tyner. Moreover, it provides a remarkable musical understanding among the members of the trio: that is why the present recording is really unique, also in respect of the previous works of the New York piano player.

Gifted with personal style suffused through enviable versatility, precise in both soft ballads and fast paced rhythms, Kevin Hays is a surprising piano player who consolidates himself amongst the most interesting talents of international jazz piano.

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