

Matthew J. Cooper, DMA
1002 Fourth Street
La Grande, Oregon 97850
Office: 541.962.3559
Home: 541.963.6267
Mobile: 541.786.2052
email: mcooper@eou.edu
mcooperpiano@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance, College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, 1994. Cognate Field in Jazz Studies. Doctoral thesis topic: "Duke Ellington: The Pianist."
- Master of Music in Piano Performance, College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, 1986.
- Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, summa cum laude, University of Oregon, 1984.
- Attended Intensive Seminar in Tango Music at the Academia Nacional del Tango, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2007).
- Extensive study of the Taubman approach at Coordinate Movement Symposia, Portland State University (1999–2001) and Golandsky Institute Summer Symposium at Princeton University (2006).
- Studied at the Aspen Music Festival, 1983.

Principal Teachers

- Frank Weinstock (College-Conservatory of Music)
- Marlene Thal (University of Oregon)
- Samuel Lipman (Aspen Music Festival)
- Master Classes with Leon Fleisher, Menahem Pressler, Bela Siki, William Doppmann, Robert Durso, Richard Fields, Max Camp
- Master Classes in Vocal Accompanying with Gwendolyn Koldofsky and Ellen Schinnerer Porter
- Additional private study with Golandsky Institute faculty Robert Durso, John Bloomfield, Kendall Feeney, and Marc Steiner.

Curricular Abilities

- Applied Piano and Jazz Piano
- Music Theory and Aural Skills

- Keyboard Harmony and Class Piano
- Jazz Improvisation, Theory, History, and Arranging
- Jazz Big Band or Combo
- Piano Pedagogy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

-Faculty, Eastern Oregon University (1991–). Teaching duties include Piano, Music Theory, Aural Skills, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Jazz: American Music, Improvisation, Accompanying, Class Piano, and Piano Pedagogy.

-Graduate Teaching Assistant in Jazz Studies, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (1990–91). Duties included serving as Associate Conductor of the Jazz Ensemble; directing a jazz combo; and assisting with the teaching of the Jazz Arranging and Jazz Keyboard classes.

-Faculty, Oregon Summer Music Institute (1992–97), University of Oregon. Taught Jazz Combo, Jazz Piano, Jazz Keyboard Voicings, Jazz Patterns, Theory, listening sessions, and performed in faculty jazz combo.

-Faculty, Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio (1987–1990). Teaching duties included teaching Jazz Piano, Keyboard Harmony, Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Lab Band, and Music Theory; accompanying faculty and student recitals; and accompanying the CSU Chorus.

-Taught Survey of African-American Music course, Northern Kentucky University, March–May 1991.

-Faculty, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Preparatory Department, 1985–87 (jazz and classical piano).

-Presented workshop on “Classical Style on the Modern Piano” at Piano Duet Festival-by-the-Sea, 2001.

-Presentation on “Music of Our Century,” 1998 OMTA State Convention. Served on panels on “The Adult Student,” 1997 OMTA Adjudicators Conference, and “Selecting Repertoire,” 1998 State Convention.

-Guest Lecturer on “Jazz: American Music,” Maryhill Museum 1997 Summer Teachers’ Institute, Goldendale, Washington.

-Numerous presentations for OMTA, including Blue Mountain, Mid-Columbia, Lincoln County, Eugene, Rogue Valley, Roseburg, Central Oregon, Salem, Tualatin Valley, Linn-Benton, Umatilla-Morrow, and Portland districts.

-Adjudicator and Clinician at Piano Competitions including Montana and Washington State MTNA Performance Competitions (2001 and 2002); Boise Sonatina Festival (2003); Montana State MTA Fall Festival (2002); Snake River Valley MTA Fall Festival (2000); Young Artists Masters Series, Walla Walla

chapter of Washington State Music Teachers Association, November '98 and February '99; Oregon East Symphony Young Artist Competition (1992, 1995, 2002); Grande Ronde Symphony Concerto Competition (1998); Oregon Music Teachers Association Junior Bach Festival (1994–present in Umatilla-Morrow and Central Oregon Districts); OMTA Ensemble Festival (Umatilla-Morrow District, 1996); OMTA Romantic Festival (Eugene District, 2000); OMTA Classical Festival (Blue Mountain District, 1997); Oregon Music Educators Association Northeast Oregon District Solo and Ensemble Contest (1992 and 1998); OMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest (1992).

-Conducted Master Classes at International Festival of Creative Pianists (Boise, 2004); Washington State University, University of Wyoming, Treasure Valley Community College, and Elsinore Piano Series.

-Adjudicator and Clinician at Jazz Festivals, including University of Wisconsin-Platteville Jazz Festival (1995) and University of Cincinnati High School Invitational Jazz Festival (1985–1991).

-Private teaching in jazz and classical piano (1978–).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jazz Piano

-Played professionally since age of sixteen; club dates, concerts, local and national radio broadcasts in Northeastern Oregon, Eugene, Portland, Cincinnati and Dayton areas, and the Russian Far East; performances with a wide variety of local and national groups.

-Toured with Woody Herman's Young Thundering Herd, June and July, 1987. Professional appearances with Eddie Harris, Clark Terry, Bill Berry and the CCM Faculty Jazz Septet (WVXU Jazz Festival 1987, broadcast live nationally on American Public Radio); Les Elgart, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, David Friesen, Jamey Aebersold, Howard Levy, Blue Wisp Big Band, Jim Pepper, Nancy King, Marty Ehrlich, John Stowell, Rusty Bryant, Joshua Breakstone, Mike Lee, Tom Kirkpatrick, Rich Perry, Sonny King, Jimmy Lloyd Rae, Scott Wendholt, Eric Barber, Paul Anastasio, Rob Blakeslee, Alan Jones, Tom Bergeron, Mike Vlatkovich, Rob Scheps, Galen Abdur-Razzaq, Frank Griffith, Mike Denny, John Bishop, and others.

-Other college concert appearances with Frank Foster (American Public Radio broadcast), Frank Rosolino, Red Rodney, Jane Ira Bloom (Tri-C Jazz Festival, Cleveland, OH., 1987); Jerry Coker, Cal Collins, John McNeil, Byron Stripling, Jim Pugh, Steve Kujala, John Harmon, and many others.

-Television appearances include "The Great American Jazz Piano Competition" (WJCT-TV, Jacksonville, Florida), a one-hour special broadcast nationally on PBS television stations; and "Strike Up the Big Band," a two hour special on the Bill Walters Big Band (WCET-TV, Cincinnati).

-Matt Cooper Trio featured on "Focus Cincinnati", a one-hour special on WGUC-FM, Cincinnati, January, 1991. The series highlighted outstanding students from CCM.

-Concert appearances as a jazz soloist include the Oregon Bach Festival; full-length solo concerts in Khabarovsk and Blagoveschensk, Russian Far East (2000-2004); Dayton Art Institute Cloister Series; Jazz Live from the Hyatt (broadcast live on WGUC-FM, Cincinnati); performance of original arrangements of Ellington compositions for orchestra and jazz trio with Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra (June 1992); performance of several solo selections in recital at Oregon Music Teachers Association 1997 Adjudicators Conference.

-College guest artist and recital appearances include University of Oregon Jazz Cafe Series (1998); soloist with University of Wisconsin-Platteville Jazz One and Jazz Combo (1995), Whitman College Faculty Jazz Combo (1993), and Blue Mountain Community College Faculty Jazz Quartet (1991); performances with Eastern Faculty Jazz Ensemble (1991-); and faculty jazz recitals at Central State University.

-Ohio NAJE All-State Intercollegiate Jazz Ensemble, 1987.

-Studied jazz with Joe Henderson, David Baker, Mulgrew Miller, James Williams, Art Lande, Michael Weiss, Fred Hersch, Hank Levy, Scott Reeves, Pat Harbison, Rick Van Matre, Frank Vincent, and others.

Classical Piano

-Faculty solo and chamber recitals at Eastern Oregon University and Central State University (1987-); solo recitals at International festival of Creative Pianists (Boise, 2004); Washington State University (two recitals in 2001); and Elsinore Theatre Recital Series, Salem, OR (1999)

-Guest appearance at Piano Duet Festival-by-the-Sea, Lincoln City, OR (2001), performing both solo and piano ensemble works for two to five players.

-Several concert appearances in Khabarovsk, Russia including Mozart Concerto No. 21 with Chamber Orchestra "Gloria" (2000), and solo recital featuring American classical and jazz composers (2004).

-Concerto appearances with Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra, Oregon East Symphony, and Inland Northwest Musicians (1994-present). Concertos include Beethoven No. 3, Mozart No. 21, Rachmaninoff No. 2, Beethoven Triple, Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue.

-Piano duet concert tours with Beth Tomassetti (1997 and '98) included performances at the Coffee Concerts Series at the Newport Performing Arts Center (Newport, OR); Western Oregon University (Monmouth, OR); Treasure

Valley Community College (Ontario, OR); and Eastern Oregon University. Broadcast on Northwest Public Radio's "Classics Northwest" series in June, '97.

-Performances with Columbia Trio throughout Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon, 1999–present, including Camerata Musica series, (Richland, Washington); Walla Walla Symphony Chamber Series; and Grande Ronde Symphony Chamber Series. Performed at State Conferences of OMTA (1999) and WSMTA (2003).

-Guest artist at 2001 Piano Duet Festival-by-the-Sea, Lincoln City, OR. Performed works for piano three hands to piano ten hands with Timothy and Nancy Nickel and David and Ellen Deffner Duos, as well as solo works.

-Solo and collaborative performances on Grande Ronde Symphony Chamber Series, La Grande (1992–).

-Keyboardist, Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra (1991–98).

-Active collaborative artist throughout Oregon and Ohio (1982–).

-Performances of many contemporary works including British composer Eleanor Alberga, New York composer Henry Martin, Cincinnati composers Mark Saya and Scott Huston, and Oregon composers Tomas Svoboda, John McKinnon and Benjamin Tomassetti.

-Accompanied Eastern Chamber Choir and Central State Chorus (1987–98); concert tours throughout the Midwest, Northeast and Northwest United States including Alaska.

-CCM Contemporary Music Ensemble (Winter Quarter 1987).

-Accompanied John Solum Flute Recital and Master Class, University of Oregon (1983).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

-Appeared in orchestral "Pops" Concerts with Roger Williams (Springfield, Ohio), the Blue Ash (Ohio) Symphony, the Middletown (Ohio) Symphony, and at the 1987 CCM All-Star Gala Concert.

-Played synthesizer in pit orchestra for Broadway touring production of *A Chorus Line* (December 1990).

-Musical Director and Pianist, 1986 Showboat Follies, *Showboat Majestic* (Cincinnati).

-Accompanied Ballet and Modern Dance Classes, College-Conservatory of Music (1984–86).

-Worked as an announcer at radio stations KLCC and KRVM (Eugene, 1977–79).

HONORS AND AWARDS

-Song “Blues for Julia” from *Clovis* album named one of the top three in the “Best Instrumental Jazz Song” category at the JPF Music Awards (2009).

-Third Place Prize, Great American Piano Competition, Jacksonville, Florida (1988).

-Third Place Prize (tie), Thelonius Monk International Piano Competition, Washington, D.C. (1988).

-Outstanding Jazz Student of the Year Award, National Association of Jazz Educators Ohio Unit (1987).

-Member of the University of Cincinnati Jazz Chamber Ensemble, winner of *Downbeat* magazine's 'deebee' award for 'Best Collegiate Instrumental Jazz Ensemble in the U.S. and Canada' (1986).

-Finalist, 1986 College-Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition.

-Semi-finalist, 1986 Joanna Hodges Piano Competition.

-Semi-finalist, 1985 Young Keyboard Artists Association International Piano Competition.

-University Graduate Scholarship, University of Cincinnati (1984–1987).

-Ruth Lorraine Close Scholarship Award, University of Oregon (1978 and '79).

-Phi Beta Achievement Award in Piano (1978).

-Numerous High School Jazz Awards, including Outstanding Soloist awards at Mt. Hood Vocal Jazz Festival and the University of Portland Jazz Festival (1978) and the Southern Oregon Community College Jazz Festival (1977).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

-Active Member, Oregon Music Teachers Association (1991–). OMTA State President (2000–2002)., Vice President and Convention Chair (1998–2000). Held several offices in Blue Mountain District, including President, Secretary, Program Chair and Publicity Chair.

-Nationally Certified through MTNA in the areas of Piano and Jazz Studies.

-Member, ASCAP; College Music Society; American Federation of Teachers.

-Inducted, Golden Key Honorary Society, 1984.

-Inducted, Pi Kappa Lambda, 1983.

PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS

-Clovis Sextet, *Clovis*. Includes two original compositions, "Copland" and "Home in the Blues." Features bassist Glen Moore (of the group Oregon). Teal Creek Music (USA) and Factory Outlet Records (Germany), 2005.

-Jesse Jones and Isaac Callender, *Here Comes the Rain* (compact disc), self-published, 2002.

-"Music Without Borders: A Visit to the Russian Far East," *Oregon Musician*, Spring 2002 issue.

-Kit Garoutte, *Home Sweet Home* (self-published CD-R), 1999.

-Eastern Chamber Choir (compact disc), 1999.

-*Piano Four Hands* (compact disc) with Beth Tomassetti, 1998. Piano duet works by Schubert, Barber, Ravel, and a world premiere recording of Tomas Svoboda's *Suite Op. 124*. Distributed by North Pacific Music.

-"Playing Jazz: No Fears, No Tears," *Oregon Musician*, Spring 1995 issue.

-"Duke Ellington: The Pianist," DMA Thesis, published by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, 1994.

-*Introspection*, solo jazz piano works by Thelonious Monk, A.C. Jobim, and Stevie Wonder (cassette tape), 1989.

-*UOJazz* (phonograph), 1979.