

# Peter Martin - bio

petermartinmusic.com

Raised by parents who are both classical musicians, pianist Peter Martin began studying violin and piano at age three. At age 13 he met Wynton Marsalis who would go on to mentor Peter in his burgeoning interest in Jazz. After graduating from high school in St. Louis, Peter received the Presidential Scholar in the Arts award from President Reagan. He then attended The Juilliard School in New York on scholarship, studying with Martin Canin, until moving to New Orleans in 1990. While in New Orleans, Martin honed his skills working with key musicians such as Nicholas Payton, Germaine Bazzle, Ellis Marsalis, Chris Thomas, Alvin Batiste, Brian Blade and Victor Goines.

In 1991 at the age of twenty, Martin was tapped to join the legendary vocalist Betty Carter's trio. He also embarked on an active solo career and has gone on to tour and record with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Chris Botti, Joshua Redman, Christian Mc Bride, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Roy Hargrove, Terence Blanchard, the Jazz Futures II, 4-Sight, Johnny Griffin, and Stanley Turrentine. In 1993 Peter received the 2nd place prize at the Thelonius Monk International Jazz Piano Competition.

Peter performed on and arranged Dianne Reeves' Grammy winning release [A Little Moonlight](#) as well as co-produced her 2004 Blue Note CD [Christmas Time Is Here](#). Peter appeared as the pianist in George Clooney's 2005 film [Good Night, and Good Luck](#) as well as being the featured pianist and an arranger on the Grammy® winning soundtrack.

Peter is also an accomplished arranger and composer. His works have been performed by numerous orchestras worldwide, including a commission from the Los Angeles Philharmonic for arrangements performed at a series of concerts at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in December 2004 featuring Dianne Reeves and Peter Martin.

A partial listing of symphony orchestras that Peter has performed with include the Berlin Philharmonic with Simon Rattle, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Lyon National Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, and the Honolulu Symphony.

Peter's touring performances have taken him to five continents numerous times. He has performed in Australia, Israel, South Africa, China, Japan, South Korea, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Bermuda, Turkey, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia and Switzerland among others.

Venues where Peter has performed include Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the Berlin Philharmonic, Lincoln Center in New York, the Sydney Opera House (Australia,) the Village Vanguard and Blue Note jazz clubs (NYC,) The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC,) Royal Festival Hall (London, UK,) the Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland,) the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, and the Istanbul International Jazz Festival.

Peter is currently a faculty member of the music department of Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Peter has also taught on the music faculties of Tulane University, the University of New Orleans and NOCCA (New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts.) He has performed workshops and master classes at institutions worldwide, including Michigan State University, Oberlin College, Duke University, the Carnegie Hall Professional Training Workshops, Steinway Piano Gallery, Community Music School of St. Louis, the Rotterdam Conservatory, and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow.

In December 2005, Peter produced and served as musical director for the "Big River Hurricane Relief Concert" at the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis, MO. The concert featured an array of top New Orleans jazz artists including Ellis Marsalis, Nicholas Payton, Don Vappie, Victor Goines and Herlin Riley. When the program was repeated at Chicago Symphony Hall in September 2006, Howard Reich in the Chicago Tribune commented *"Uncounted tributes to New Orleans have unfolded in the months since last year's disaster, but few have matched the artistic integrity of this evening, aptly titled "The Big River Concert" (and recorded for future broadcast on Dee Dee Bridgewater's NPR radio show, "JazzSet"). Organized by New Orleans transplant Peter Martin, a St. Louis pianist who escaped to Missouri after the hurricane's wreckage, the event addressed a sweeping range of New Orleans music."*

Currently Peter serves as musical director and pianist for Dianne Reeves as well as being a member of trumpeter Chris Botti's touring band. Peter Martin is a Steinway Piano Artist, and his latest release In the PM is available on MAXJAZZ Records.

### **SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES:**

The View (ABC) December 2007  
 Fox and Friends (FOX) December 2007  
 The Today Show (NBC) September 2007  
 The Library of Congress Paul Simon celebration (PBS) June 2007  
 Billy Strayhorn: "Lush Life" documentary (PBS) 2007  
 Good Night And Good Luck (Warner Bros.) 2005  
 CBS Early Show (CBS) 2004  
 "Piano Jazz" with Marian McPartland (NPR) 2002  
 Sainly Switch (Disney) 1999  
 Good Morning America (ABC) 1996  
 Moon Over Miami (ABC) 1996  
 Live from Lincoln Center (PBS) 1994, 2001

### **SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:**

Peter Martin	Something Unexpected	MaxJazz	2001 <i>(artist and producer)</i>
Peter Martin	In The P.M.	MaxJazz	2005 <i>(artist and producer)</i>
Peter Martin	The Answer	PMM	2001
Peter Martin	Parabola	AlphaJazz	1997
Peter Martin	New Stars from New Orleans	King	1993

Dianne Reeves	Good Night & Good Luck	Concord	2005 <i>Grammy® winner</i>
Dianne Reeves	Billy Strayhorn: Lush Life	Blue Note	2007
Dianne Reeves	Christmas Time Is Here	Blue Note	2004 <i>(artist and producer)</i>
Dianne Reeves	A Little Moonlight	Blue Note	2003 <i>Grammy® winner</i>
Wynton Marsalis	All Rise w/LA Philharmonic	Sony	2002
Victor Goines	Love Dance	Criss Cross	2007
Victor Goines	New Adventures	Criss Cross	2006
Joshua Redman	Spirit of the Moment	Warner Bros.	1996
Joshua Redman	Freedom in the Groove	Warner Bros.	1998
Rodney Whitaker	Hidden Kingdom	DIW-Sony	1998
Johnny Griffin	Chicago, New York, Paris	Verve	1995
Nicholas Payton	The New Orleans Collective	Evidence	1994

### **SELECTED PRESS QUOTES:**

“The elegance of his touch, the textural clarity of his improvisations and the careful design of his solos distinguish Martin from many pianists of the 35-and-under generation.”

- Los Angeles Times

“one of the most underrated pianists in jazz today ... Martin plays with the kind of daring and excitement that marks a distinctive personality on the keyboard.”

- Washington Post

“He has clearly found his own individual voice at the piano. He’s sure to have a major role in the future of American jazz.”

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

“Peter is a complete pianist, performing with maturity well beyond his years.”

- Ellis Marsalis