



BUDDY

www.thepianobuddy.com | thepianobuddy@gmail.com | 412-716-2230

Bio

A soulful jazz keyboardist and producer, Charles Rieger, aka Buddy, has earned respect for his cross-genre, jazz-influenced aesthetic.

Based in Pittsburgh, he emerged in 2012 with souljazz band Jazzam. The project found him embracing a funk and jazz vibe that combined groove-based dance music with dazzling harmonies and improvisation.

Prior to breaking through with Jazzam, he had studied jazz at the University of Pittsburgh with Frank Cunimondo and was blessed to play with such luminaries as Poogie Bell, Abraham Laboriel, Larry Coryell, and Maurice "Mobetta" Brown.

He has also collaborated in the studio on projects with The Commonheart, Violet Grae, and Glenn Strother Project. He currently performs as a sideman and with the Bachelor Boys Band, Glenn Strother Project, and as a solo pianist for the UU Church of the South Hills in PGH.

As a music educator, Buddy has also been helping musicians improve their skills for over 20 years.

Since age 15 he has owned and operated his own instruction studio. By hosting open-mics, jam sessions, and "piano parties," he is able to engage students of all backgrounds in a variety of performance opportunities. This prepares students for professional opportunities in the gigging music economy.

Buddy contributes his style to a blend of the music he loves, jazz, classical, folk, funk, soul, electronic, and bluegrass. He enjoys exploring new sounds with the latest keyboard technology and especially loves to work with musicians that groove.

Working in musical theatre, Buddy also substitutes as a fill-in for musicals and theatre gigs. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Playback Theatre for 4 years.

Aside from Music, Buddy enjoys cooking, hiking, meditation, art, and spending time with his 5-year-old daughter.

Performance Highlights

Duquesne University, The University of Pittsburgh, Thunderbird Cafe, Pittsburgh Winery, The Rex Theater, Three Rivers Arts Festival, James Street Jazz Club, Ace Hotel, Club Cafe, Mr Smalls, Phipps Conservatory, Bricolage, Thrival Festival, Flood City Music Festival, The "Werkout" Festival, Camp Barefoot Festival, The Bitter End (NYC), the NAMM Show (Anaheim, CA), and many other venues.

Buddy is scheduled to perform with [Pittsburgh Plays Fleetwood Mac](#) on Friday, December 17, 2021 and Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Thunderbird Music Hall.

[He is also scheduled to perform at First Night Pittsburgh with Trinity Wiseman.](#)

Feature Highlights



[Featured on Post Gazette](#)

