

Josh Nelson – Biography (short)

Josh Nelson, born and raised in Southern California, maintains an active and creative schedule as a jazz pianist, composer, teacher, and recording artist. At 30 years old, he has already performed with some of the most respected names in jazz, including Natalie Cole, Anthony Wilson, Bob Hurst, Jeff Hamilton, Ralph Moore, Albert "Tootie" Heath, Seamus Blake, Matt Wilson, Sara Gazarek, Ernie Watts, Jack Sheldon, Tom Scott, Peter Erskine, Abe Laboriel, and Alex Acuna, to name a few. Josh has recorded for countless albums, films, and TV shows, but also makes time for his own projects: *First Stories* (1998), *Emergence* (2001), *The Leadwell Project* (2002), and *Anticipation* (2004). *Let it Go* (2007, Native Language Music) garnered critical claim, and boasts an impressive lineup of an all-star band. Josh's new album, *I Hear a Rhapsody*, will be released in July 2009.

Compositions and performances of his have appeared on various prime-time and cable shows and films, including "Jack and Bobby", "The Division", "Lucky", and "First Daughter" (directed by Forest Whittaker). He has also worked with film composer Michael Kamen, and actors Eric Idle, Clint Eastwood, and Jon Lovitz. Josh has earned many awards, scholarships, and accolades over the years, some of which include the Louis Armstrong Award and the John Philip Sousa Award. He was also one of 12 semi-finalists in the 2006 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition.

Josh is also musical director for vocal talent Sara Gazarek, of which he penned the title track of her debut record, "Yours". That record reached No. 10 on the Billboard Jazz Charts. Sara's second studio album, *Return to You* (2006), also featured Josh's songwriting talent. He continues to tour the world with her, as well as with legendary vocalist Natalie Cole.

"Josh is that rare young musician who has not only a wealth of study and experience under his belt (all but assuring him a prominent place in jazz music), but he also possesses those rarest of musical attributes: a touch, a tone, and a "sound" that are all identifiably his own."

- Peter Erskine

"It is Nelson's wide-ranging musical interests, and his desire to further explore and express those interests in future writing and performing, that makes Nelson a musician to watch in the years ahead."

-Richard Pitnick, *Coast Weekly*

"As you listen, I think you will agree the we have the jazz leadership for the years to come."

- Bob Agnew, LA Jazz Scene

Check out his website at www.joshnelsonmusic.com/ to purchase his albums, check out his performance calendar, and more.

