



PHOTO BY CLAY PATRICK MCBRIDE

Jason Moran & the Bandwagon

JASON MORAN

Since his formidable emergence on the music scene in the late '90s, jazz pianist Jason Moran has proven more than his brilliance as a performer. The Blue Note Records recording artist has established himself as a risk-taker and innovator of new directions for jazz as a whole. In almost every category that matters — improvisation, composition, group concept, repertoire, technique and experimentation — Moran and his group the Bandwagon have challenged the status quo and earned a reputation as “the future of jazz.”

Influenced by the wider world of art as his muse, Moran has found inspiration in edgy 20th-century painters like Jean-Michel Basquiat (check out “JAMO Meets SAMO” from *Soundtrack to Human Motion*, as well as his series of “Gangsterism” compositions); Egon Schiele (whose painting *Facing Left* provided the eponymous title to Moran’s second album); and Robert Rauschenberg, whose chaotic refinement inspired Moran’s third album *Black Stars*, featuring the legendary Sam Rivers.

His ongoing visionary collaborations in the art world have brought him additional fans and respect. Moran’s music is in the collections of both the MOMA and Whitney Museum of American Art. He scored a ballet for Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet, as well as scoring video works for contemporary American artists Glenn Ligon and Kara Walker. He has worked with pivotal visual/performance artists Joan Jonas and Adrian Piper. A collaboration with Grammy-nominated neo-soul artist Meshell Ndegeocello — a dance party centered on the music of Fats Waller — premiered in 2011, with an album release on Blue Note in 2014: *All Rise: An Elegy for Fats Waller*.

Music education plays a central role in Moran’s life. He is on the piano faculty at Manhattan School of Music and has been lecturer/instructor at Yale University, Dartmouth University, Eastman School of Music and New York’s Museum of Modern Art, among others.

JASON MORAN

piano

TARUS MATEEN

bass

NASHEET WAITS

drums