

About John Beasley

JOHN BEASLEY
PIANIST
RECORDING ARTIST
TV/FILM COMPOSER
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
PRODUCER
ARRANGER
CLINICIAN

Louisiana native, Beasley is a third generation musician. His father is a pianist, bassoonist and composer. His mother is a brass instrumentalist, band conductor and orchestrator. His grandfather was a trombonist. Growing up around musicians, John also learned how to play trumpet, oboe, drums, saxophone and flute, mainly because of his mother's need for wind and brass instrumentalists for her bands.

Declining an oboe scholarship from the Julliard after high school because of his love for jazz, Beasley went on to play, tour and record with some of the who's who in music, including Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Chick Corea, Queen Latifah (MD), Christian McBride, Steely Dan (MD), James Brown, Carly Simon, Jon Hassel, Chaka Khan, Spice Girls, Jessica Simpson, Clint Black, to name a few. Recognizing Beasley's talent for composing and arranging, major recording artists have added Beasley's original piano sound and music to their projects. While touring with Miles Davis, Beasley was inspired to release his first of eight solo recordings, which was produced by Steely Dan's Walter Becker.

Highly regarded as a composer, at the young age of 24, Beasley started writing music for Paramount, Disney, and MGM's television shows, namely: Cheers, Family Ties, Star Trek and Fame. He also wrote the Touchstone TV logo, which is still used today. His first brush with Hollywood films was as a pianist and synthesist on film scores for film luminaries such as Thomas Newman, Dave Grusin, Alan Silvestri, and Carmine Coppola in box office hits: WALL-E, Finding Nemo, Erin Brockovich, Godfather III, A Bug's Life and Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me.

With the popularity of reality shows, Beasley, started working as Musical Director or Arranger on some of the top music and dance shows, including American Idol, Pussycat Dolls Presents, The Search for the Next Doll, America's Got Talent and Singing Bee. On Season 4 of American Idol, Beasley was Associate Musical Director overseeing the 12 female finalists. He arranged the selected songs and coached and rehearsed the contestants for their performances. To his credit, Carrie Underwood took the title and went on to earn a GRAMMY and be a #1 country music sensation.

Today, Beasley, continues to release new music, tour with his band, juggle studio work (commercials, TV and films), conduct workshops, produce other artists, perform and produce music award specials, work on music reality shows, and tour with Queen Latifah as her Musical Director.

His latest recording, Positootly! is his eagerly anticipated follow up to 2008's acclaimed Letter to Herbie (Beasley's impressionistic take on the music of Herbie Hancock), the Louisiana native showcases his own engaging compositions along with a few choice covers (Jobim's "Dindi"; Astor Piazzolla's "Tanguedia III"; and Bobby Timmons' "So Tired"). Joining Beasley on his second outing for Resonance Records are drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts (back from his key role on Letter to Herbie), bassist James Genus, percussionist Munyungo Jackson, Grammy-winning trumpeter Brian Lynch (a former member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and Eddie Palmieri's salsa band) and saxophonist Benny Maupin (a charter

member of Hancock's Mwandishi Sextet and Headhunters).

His eighth album, Letter to Herbie, is a tribute to 2008 GRAMMY winner, Herbie Hancock, which features Christian McBride, Jeff "Tain" Watts and Roy Hargrove was released April 2008 and topped the JazzWeek Charts.

Discography

Positootly!	Resonance Records	Letter to Herbie	Resonance Records
Nuances	EWE Japan/Beasley Music	Surfacing	EWE Japan/Beasley Music
A Change of Heart	Windham Hill	10/10 The Music of Thelonious Monk	TDK Japan
Windham Hill Sampler	Windham Hill	Commotion 2:	
Sampler of Windham Hill Jazz	Windham Hill	Mose the Fireman	Rabbit Ears (music)

Walter Becker, story read by Michael Keaton)
Production/Composer/Arranger Credits

Chaka Khan

Christmas CD

Andy Summers

Sensual Journey

Hubert Laws

Earth and Sky

Hubert Laws

Storm Then The Calm

Chie Ayado

Shine

Chie Ayado

Time

Chie Ayado

Seven

Brian Lynch

Spheres of Influence

John Patitucci

Another World

Yosvany Terry

Metamorphosis

Steve Tavaglione

Silent Singing

Michael White

So Far Away

Marilyn Scott

Innocent of Nothing

“El Negro” & Robbie Ameen

At The Third World War

“El Negro” & Robbie Ameen

Third World War II

Dwight Tribble & John Beasley

upcoming release

Hiroshi Imade

Pahana

Vickie Natale

Like No Oth

Recording Credits (Keyboards, Arranger)

Miles Davis

Live Around the World

Miles Davis

Time After Time

Al Jarreau

Making Spirits Bright

Al Jarreau

A Smooth Jazz Christmas

Dianne Reeves

Art & Survival

Carly Simon

Moonlight Serenade (DVD)

Walter Becker

11 Tracks of Whack

Kenny Rankin

A Song For You

Pussycat Dolls

Shall We Dance (sdtrk)

Heather Hedley

Standards

Lee Ritenour

West Bound

Lee Ritenour

A Twist of Jobim

Lee Ritenour

Rit's House

Will Downing/
Gerald Albright

Pleasures of the Night

Jovanoti

Io Canto

Laura Pausini

Safari

Michael Franks

Blue Pacific

Michael Bolton

Time, Love & Tenderness

Erykah Badu

Meet Joe Black (sdtrk)

Mya

James Bond 007

(video game)

Tânia Maria

Love Explosion

Manhattan Transfer

The Offbeat of Avenues

Ricky Martin

Vuelve

Eric Anderson

Memory of the Future

Tanita Tikaram

Lovers in the City

Jon Hassell Maarifa Street

Glenn Hughes

Building the Machine

Jimmy Haslip

Arc

Johnny Lang

Long Time Coming

Jeff Beal

Three Graces

John Patitucci

Sketchbook

John Patitucci

Imprint

John Patitucci

Heart of the Bass

John Patitucci

Another World

John Patitucci

Mistrura Fina

John Patitucci

One More Angel

John Patitucci

Quiet After the Storm

John Patitucci

Another World

Eric Marienthal

Walk Tall:Tribute to Cannonball Adderley

Eric Marienthal

Easy Street

Eric Marienthal

Crossroads

Tim Weisberg

Naked Eyes

Tim Weisberg

Time Traveler

Tim Weisberg

Three Decade Journey

Hubert Laws

My Time Will Come

Hubert Laws

New Earth Sonata

Harvey Mason

Ratamacue

Harvey Mason

With All My Heart

Kip Hanrahan

Beautiful Scars

Melvin Davis

Nature's Serenade

Kyle Eastwood

Paris Blue

Kyle Eastwood

Now

Warren Hill

Love Songs

Warren Hill

Life Thru Rose Colored Glasses

Jeremy Steig

Jigsaw

The Power of Seven

Up-Front

Bob Sheppard

Tell Tale Signs

Tim Weston

Providence

Jimmy Earl

Stratosphere

Sal Marquez

One for Dewey

Freebo

End of the Beginning

Greg & Bev Smith

No Baggage

Leslie Drayton

Close Pursuit

Pat Coil

Just Ahead

Sofia Shinas

Sofia Shinas

Sonya Jackson

Tigress

Steve Tavaglione

Blue Tav

The Sala Brothers

Sala Brothers

Musical Director -Tours/Special Performances
Steely Dan, Queen Latifah, Chie Ayado, Mya

Performer – Tours, Gigs, and TV Specials

Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, James Brown, Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Chaka Khan, John Patitucci, Dianne Reeves, Sergio Mendes, Wallace Roney, Chris Botti, Boz Scaggs, Kenny Garrett, Jon Hassell, Baaba Maal, Howie B., Lee Ritenour, Jeff “Tain Watts, Harvey Mason, Stanley Clarke, El Negro & Robby Ameen, The Count Basie Orchestra (conducted by Thad Jones), Spice Girls, Carly Simon, Chie Ayado, Jessica Simpson, Clint Black, Kelly Clarkson, Ron Fair, Reuben Stoddard, Destiny’s Child, Sheryl Crow, Chick Corea, Barbra Streisand, Michelle Branch, Gloria Estefan, Cyndi Lauper, Ry Cooder, Bette Midler, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Chrissie Hynde, Emmylou Harris, Lee Ann Womack, Rikki Lee Jones, Bonnie Raitt, Ivan Lins, Kip Hanrahan, Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, Fantasia, Dwight Tribble, Brian Lynch, Yolanda Adams, Patti Austin, Shirley Caesar, Dionne Warwick, CeCe Winans, Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Reality TV - Musical Director/Arranger
American Idol - Season 5, 6, 7 (2006-2008, FOX), Arranger
American Idol - Season 4 (2005, FOX), Associate Musical Director
Pussycat Dolls Present: Search for the Next Doll - 2007, (CW), Musical Director
America’s Got Talent - 2007, (NBC), Arranger
Singing Bee - 2007, (NBC), Arranger

Composer, TV/Film/Commercials

Touchtone TV logo, Fame, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Cheers, Family Ties, The Division, The Search for Intelligent

Life in the Universe, Take Me To Your Leader, Aspen Extreme, Going to California, Bronx Zoo, Duet, Open House, My Life as a Babysitter, Marsupilani, Blockbuster, Dodge, Saab, General Motors, Isuzu, GMC, Mattel, Buy.com, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, MBS Studios (Germany): Opal, Otello, Lucky Strike and Doctors Without Borders informational videos.

Musician on Film/TV Scores

Select Composers:

Tom Newman, Dave Grusin, Stanley Clarke, George S. Clinton, Carmine Coppola, Alan Silvestri

Films: Wall-E, Finding Nemo, Dreamgirls, Simpsons, Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me, Angels in America, Jarhead, Erin Brockovitch, The Salton Sea, A Bug's Life, The Godfather III, Twin Peaks (TV Series), The Green Mile, The People vs. Larry Flynt, The Usual Suspects, Fried Green Tomatoes, Shall We Dance, Up Close and Personal, Hope Floats, The Gods Must Be Crazy II, The Horse Whisperer, Little Women, The Abyss, Fatal Attraction, Corrina, Corrina, Bonfire of the Vanities, Family Guy, Career Opportunities, Cedric The Entertainer, Presents, Chances Are, Clifford, Custody of the Heart, The Favor, Flight of the Intruder, Guns of Paradise, Kaleidoscope, Kicking & Screaming, Knot's Landing, Ladybugs, Las Vegas, Lois & Clark, Meet Joe Black, Murphy Brown, My Sister's Keeper, Odd Couple, Only the Lonely, Phenomenon, Playing By Heart, Poodle Springs, Prime Target, Random Hearts, Roman Holiday, Short Circuit, Snow Dogs, Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, Teen Wolf, That Darn Cat, Beverly Hills Troop, Yes, Dear.

REVIEWS

On John Beasley's playing:

"The first set was particularly intense and decidedly emotional...Beasley, the one-time keyboardist for Freddie Hubbard and Miles Davis, reflects a variety of generational influences, incorporating the emphatic chordal clusters of Herbie Hancock, the rhythmic quirkiness of Monk and the lush intelligence of Art Tatum into a highly refined personal voice."

-- Los Angeles Times

"Beasley was again just amazing at the piano on his solo, and then the rest of the rhythm section stopped and it was Beasley by himself showing off his marvelous technique as he added a touch of classical with jazz in grand style."

--LA Jazz Scene

CD Reviews: Letter to Herbie — a Tribute album to Herbie Hancock

"Jazz fans from coast to coast are talking about this all-star tribute to a jazz icon from this one-time keyboardist for Freddie Hubbard and Miles Davis. A contender for one of the top 10 jazz albums of the year."

--Amazon.com

Beasley's new Letter to Herbie is a knockout.

— Jazz Critic, Brick Wahl, LA Weekly

"The music is beautiful and very insightful. The playing is virtuosic. All in all, 'Letter to Herbie' is a wonderful display of musical artistry of the highest caliber."

--Buster Williams

"a mother of a session, ... The kind of mind blowing date contemporary jazzbos are always on the lookout for." -- Midwest Record Recap

"Jazz talent, John Beasley's Letter to Herbie applies top-shelf resources to his tribute to one of his primary inspirations, Herbie Hancock. {The engineers'} sonic clarity emphasizes the warmth of Beasley's sound as he indeed does adapt Hancock's style to an interpretation of some of his music without being imitative."

--Jazz Improv

"Playing mainly the acoustic piano and teamed with heavyweights Christian McBride and Jeff Watts, there's a

drive, verve, and passion in the trio that matches the pianist's desire to take Hancock's music to a different level. The pianist himself is a worthy foil for his acclaimed workmates, and in fact has never sounded better. More than up to the task, he is able to push and pull the bass and drums seemingly at will, and possesses impressive chops and witty ideas that flow throughout. This is a credible and laudable effort.”

-- All Music Guide, 4 ½ stars

“Clever arrangements…. Beasley does a 'mash-up' of "Maiden Voyage" and "Tell Me A Bedtime Story," two of Herbie's finest compositions. This mash is a real banger, and I would go back for second helpings. Beasley is quite effective, especially as a rhythm section pianist, and has mastered a number of Hancock's signature devices. …this is a strong performance and a notch above your typical tribute project..”

--Jazz.com

“…ten exciting interpretations…” “The one standard, “Maiden Voyage” is given a fresh and intriguing makeover through a clever re-harmonization.”

-- Floodwatchmusic.com

“The instant classic is Beasley’s intuitive juxtaposition of Hancock’s chordal classics “Maiden Voyage” and “Tell Me a Bedtime Story,” which he calls “Bedtime Voyage.” Elsewhere, Beasley flipped Hancock’s slickly winding 1980 fusion composition “4AM into an accelerated and swingin’ straight ahead whirl. He took the boogaloo cue “The Naked Camera” from Hancock’s score to “Blow Up” (1967) and transformed it into something that – thanks to McBride’s bass line – sounds like Eddit Harris’ “Listen Here…Gone Reggae.” And the trance-inducing “Vein Melter” from Hancock’s funk-jazz usion classic Headhunters (1973) gets a dub inspired makeover.”

– The Urban Network

One Live Night –Live from the Baked Potato

"Reminiscent of an updated Herbie Hancock's Headhunters. Definitely worth checking out."

-- Uk Drummer Magazine, 4 stars

“Veteran L.A. keyboardist/composer Beasley—who’s worked with Freddie Hubbard and Steely Dan, as well as on American Idol—turns heads and ears at the Baked Potato with his probing, two-bass quintet. Carlos Del Puerto locks it down all night on upright, while Dave Carpenter takes a guitar-like role on 6-string bass, with tasty comps, fills, and two Patitucci-esque solos. Both gents then team up for a massive ostinato on the aptly titled “Altogether Marvelous.” --Bassplayer Magazine

"What happens when you fuse ambient sound, samples and electronics with traditional jazz and blues? Backed by drummer Gary Novak, [Chick Corea, Alanis Morissette] Bassists' Dave Carpenter [Herbbie Hancock, Alan Holdsworth] & Carlos Del Puerto [Kevin Ubanks, Chucho Valdez], along with "Tonight Show" Saxophonist Ralph Moore, [Roy Haynes, Kenny Baron] the result is a brilliant collage of texture, rhythm, soul and originality that suggests that Beasley has recast the familiar jazz quintet as the modern version of the untraditional.”

--CD Baby

Surfacing – Trio CD with Vinnie Colauita and Robert Hurst

“Pianist John Beasley has played with just about everyone—from Miles Davis and Steely Dan to Chaka Kahn and Ricky Martin—so you know that when he gets together with the Vinnie Colaiuta on drums, the sparks are gonna fly. Surfacing features the players in an acoustic jazz-trio setting, and Vinnie is given tons of room to blow. Surfacing features the players in an acoustic jazz-trio setting, and Vinnie is given tons of room to blow. "Personal Legend" is one of those mid-tempo, straight-8th tunes where Vinnie shows his unique ability to cover more ground than anyone on the planet, yet still keep it all together and play for the music. Outrageous.”

--Modern Drummer

"On this acoustic jazz masterpiece, he is backed by Robert Hurst, known for his work with Branford Marsalis and the Tonite Show band, and the pure genius of drumming, Mr. Vinnie Colaiuta. The trio perform entirely instrumental compositions by Beasley, a non stop musical workout. John Beasley, piano; Robert Hurst, acoustic bass; and Vinnie Colaiuta, drums (and those drums couldn't sound any sweeter)."

--CD Baby

Nuances — 15 solo piano pieces

"Nuances an intimate collection of improvised pieces for piano."

--CD Baby

"By turns ecstatic, pensive, and peaceful, this solo piano album is the work of a passionate player who is truly infatuated with sound."

-- Tom Schnabel, KCRW-FM Los Angeles

"Meeting John Beasley's Nuances for a listen is much like greeting the song of the morning sun: stimulating and enlightening, with the promise of good things to come. His music delights the intellect as well as the soul."

-- Peter Erskine

"As soon as I started listening to Nuances, I was in the same place as John. That's what he does here. He is a creative master. Just brilliant...he takes you there completely."

-- Vinnie Colaiuta

"John Beasley is a pianist, composer and improviser with a fertile imagination, great sensitivity and a broad sense of style. This set of solo piano improvisations is warm, colorful and highly engaging."

-- John Patitucci

"Sometimes coalescing into sparkling "Preludes" (think Debussy, etc.), John Beasley merges his stream of consciousness with his pianistic brilliance to create a score for looking out the window on a rainy day and letting your thoughts splice pleasantly into one another."

-- Jon Hassell

"With John playing against silence, or just his heart tones, he came up with these strikingly beautiful, short, dark dramas - this music- and they're as deep as they are disarmingly sweet. I could never figure out if he was thinking with his fingers, or hearing the possibilities with his fingers, or is just so comfortable with the instrument that internally hearing it, imagining the music that could be, and playing it were effortless and immediate."

--Kip Hanrahan,
Record Producer

PRESS RELEASE - March 2008

Pianist John Beasley Sets Sail on Resonance Records's Maiden Voyage with His Herbie Hancock Tribute CD, "Letter to Herbie," which features Roy Hargrove, Christian McBride and Jeff "Tain" Watts

Jazz pianist John Beasley embarks upon a supremely inspired effort with his new album, Letter to Herbie, taking its cues from both the philosophies and compositions of music great Herbie Hancock. The 10-song CD features Beasley reshaping classic works from across several decades of Hancock's catalog while also contributing originals that bear the stamp of his ideologies. Beasley is primarily showcased in a trio format flanked by first-call bassist Christian McBride and propulsive drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, with special guest trumpeter Roy Hargrove sitting in on a few numbers and the addition of flautist Steve Tavaglione, percussionist Luis Conte and guitarist Michael O'Neal adding color to a few others.

Due for release in March 2008, John Beasley's Letter to Herbie is also the inaugural release for the exciting new creative artists venture Resonance Records.

"The idea of interpreting the music of Herbie Hancock was brought to me by George Klabin (President of Resonance Records)," Beasley shares. "My first reaction was, 'no way!' Herbie was one of my first idols and I didn't want that

bullseye on my back. But over the next few days I thought about how much Herbie has inspired me." One day while teaching a summer music camp, Beasley found himself on a break at the piano where he stumbled upon a brilliant juxtaposition of the Hancock gems "Maiden Voyage" and "Tell Me a Bedtime Story." It was at that "aha" moment that he discovered it was possible for him to do something of significance with Hancock's music. He called his new piece "Bedtime Voyage" and soon after set about the daunting task of fleshing out the rest of what would become Letter to Herbie. "I picked some songs thinking not about how Herbie would play them, but how I would play them," Beasley states.

Determined to find fresh interpretations, Beasley flipped Hancock's slickly winding 1980 fusion composition "4AM" (which originally featured the rare pairing of electric bassist Jaco Pastorius and drummer Harvey Mason) into an accelerated and swingin' straight ahead whirl. He took a brief boogaloo soundtrack cue titled "The Naked Camera" from Hancock's score to Michelangelo Antonioni's "Blow Up" (1967) and transformed it into something that - thanks to McBride's bass line - sounds like Eddie Harris' "Listen Here...Gone Reggae." Beasley took a striking rhythmic turn from Hancock's post-bop masterpiece "Eye of the Hurricane" (1965) and emphasized it in a thrilling new Afro-Cuban arrangement. And the trance-inducing "Vein Melter" from Hancock's funk-jazz fusion classic *Headhunters* (1973) gets a dub-inspired makeover.

The fact that John Beasley has long been influenced by Hancock is proven in that two of his original compositions were fully conceived before he was even contemplating the direction of his latest album. "I wrote '3 Finger Snap' a few years ago," he shares. "It happened to have a 20-bar form that unintentionally mirrors Herbie's tune 'One Finger Snap' (1964), so it fit in perfectly here. It's the same story with 'Hear and Now' which has a feel similar to Herbie's 'Dolphin Dance' (1965). I got lucky with those I guess."

Beyond compositional similarities, Hancock's influence on Beasley stretches into the legend's groundbreaking penchant for bullish, boundless chameleon-esque musical exploration - be it overtly pop and dance oriented music, music from other parts of the world and music in the artistic industries of film, television and even commercial advertising. Hancock, along with contemporaries such as Quincy Jones and Stanley Clarke, explored all of these areas and more, and Beasley eagerly followed in those footsteps.

Beasley's own credits are vast and impressive, including work with jazz giants Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard, pop and R&B superstars James Brown and Chaka Khan, Quiet Storm pioneers Michael Franks and Lee Ritenour, jazz vocalists Diane Reeves and Al Jarreau, rockers Steely Dan and Johnny Lang, progressive folkies Kenny Rankin and Rickie Lee Jones, the explosive Latin strains of "El Negro" & Robbie Ameen and the seductive Brazilian music of Sergio Mendes and Tania Maria. Beasley has also graced his share of film and television sound stages at the service of "American Idol", "Fame", "Finding Nemo", and "Erin Brockovich," among many others. Among his most recent gigs was serving as Musical Director for rapper-turned-singer Queen Latifah, leading a big band for her 40 US city tour.

"Guys like Herbie paved the way for young musicians like me to be open to doing lots of other things and still play jazz. I once accompanied (new wave/pop singer) Cyndi Lauper on a show called "Women Rock" and she was way into her music. Any artist who has that kind of passion, I'm there!" John Beasley's kindred passion is apparent not only in his fine work with others, but in his previous albums as a leader (released in America as well as Japan) which range from solo piano improvisations to jazz ensembles.

Letter to Herbie marks a proud launching point for Resonance Records, the Los Angeles-based recording division of the Rising Jazz Stars Foundation, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. As a program of the foundation, Resonance is able to structure its economic resources in a manner that frees it from many of the limitations that exist in the normal jazz record business. With the funding capability and other economic participation afforded by the use of the 501 (C)(3) structure, commercial concerns take a backseat to its primary purposes - enabling extraordinarily talented artists to create their best possible audio and video recordings while developing valuable opportunities to display their artistry to new and wider audiences.

John Beasley
Letter to Herbie

Resonance Records RCD-1003 -www.ResonanceRecords.org For media information, interviews and press kits please contact Brad Riesau at DL Media West (p) 909.744.0704 / (e)brad@jazzpublicity.com or Don Lucoff at DL Media (p) 610.667.0501 / (e)don@jazzpublicity.com