

# KEIGO HIRAKAWA

## BIOGRAPHY

Recognized as a virtuosic jazz pianist with a unique sense of expressiveness and rhythmic interactions, Keigo Hirakawa is among the new generation of hard hitting pianists redefining the modern rhythm section concepts. Engaging and spontaneous, Hirakawa brings a highly personal and energetic style of improvisation to ensembles. He distinguishes himself with an articulate use of harmonic and rhythmic vocabulary, and his leadership style on the bandstand.

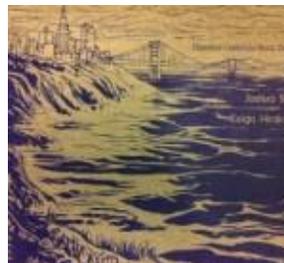
Hirakawa maintains a busy gig schedule throughout the US. He has toured/performed with Joe Lovano, Donald Byrd, JD Allen, Duane Eubanks, Carla Cook, Noah Preminger, Bob Moses, Allen Vizzutti, Bobby Lavell, Eddie Bayard, Earnie Krivda, Greg Abate, and Richie Barshay. Trained in New York City and at the New England Conservatory of Music, he studied with world renowned jazz artists including Danilo Perez, Stephen Scott, Harold Danko, Alan Pasqua, Ran Blake, Cecil McBee, Ralph Peterson, Jerry Bergonzi, Donald Byrd, John McNeil, George Garzone, Bob Moses, and Walt Weiskopf. He was the acting director of the Cornell University Jazz Ensembles in 2000-2001, during which time he welcomed Donald Byrd, Jimmy Heath, Wycliffe Gordon, Terrell Stafford, Vincent Herring, and Joe Chambers as guest soloists. He is a passionate clinician and educator, on faculty at the University of Dayton.

## DISCOGRAPHY



### **And Then There Were Three (2015)**

Keigo Hirakawa, Piano  
Eddie Brookshire, Bass  
Fenton Sparks, Drums  
Wenbi Lai, Vocals



### **Hessler-Cabrillo Run Down (2010)**

Keigo Hirakawa, Piano  
Joshua Smith, Saxophone  
Kurt Kotheimer, Bass  
John Shifflett, Bass  
Hamir Atwal, Drums  
Tim Bulkley, Drums

# REVIEWS

I had to come to Dayton to hear real jazz.

– **George Benson, jazz guitarist**

Now this guy can play!

– **Dave Holland, jazz bassist**

Full of inventiveness and a sense of adventure, creativeness and voracious angularity, aggressiveness, and jaggedness, passion and swing.

– **Stephen Scott, jazz pianist**

Keigo Hirakawa Trio sounds on this CD how fresh and sparkling piano trio still can be.

– **Jo Beckers, Doctor Jazz Magazine**

Hirakawa has a distinctive pianistic voice, coming out of a broad stylistic background.

– **Mark Sullivan, All About Jazz**

Hirakawa knows how to build excitement through skilled compositions and cohesive, virtuosic playing.

– **Andrew Patton, Jazz Columbus Weekly**

# PROJECTS

## Solo Piano

Beneath familiar jazz standard melodies are Hirakawa's masterful and subtly complex use of harmonies that transform them into an original sound. His inventive arrangements show off his comprehensive knowledge of all forms of jazz piano from traditional stride piano, bebop, to free jazz.

## Eddie Brookshire Quintet

This award-winning band is known for its high energy, contemporary bebop sound featuring original compositions. Led by a veteran bassist, Brookshire recorded/performed with Elvin Jones, Rusty Bryant, Mulgrew Miller, Kenny Drew Jr., Johnny Lytle, David "Fathead" Newman. The quintet maintains a busy tour and festival schedule throughout the US.

## Keigo Hirakawa Trio

This is a hard hitting, hard swinging, jazz piano trio that reach the highest level of improvisational artistry. Hirakawa's complex rhythmic and harmonic improvisation, Eddie Brookshire's exploration of inside and outside sounds, and Fenton Sparks's spontaneous reactions make each trio performance an adventurous endeavor.

## Brandon Coleman Quartet

The quartet pursues a modern jazz sound, inspired by uniquely voiced compositions reminiscent of cinematic music. Led by a gifted composer and guitarist Coleman, the quartet is a favorite of the jazz critics. The quartet does not shy away from tempo modulations and odd meter time signatures.

# MEDIA AND CONTACT

**Email:** [keigohirakawa@gmail.com](mailto:keigohirakawa@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** 617.680.2073  
**Website:** [www.keigohirakawa.com](http://www.keigohirakawa.com)  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/keigohirakawa](http://www.twitter.com/keigohirakawa)  
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Dr. Jazz Operations  
[drjazz@drjazz.com](mailto:drjazz@drjazz.com)  
248.542.7888