

DONAL FOX

Pianist, Composer, Improviser

“A composer, pianist and improviser who deftly draws from jazz and classical contemporary traditions.”

— *The New York Times*

“Ingenious artistry... Donal Fox improvises on several hundred years of musical tradition with aplomb and veracity.”

— *All About Jazz*

Internationally acclaimed as a composer, pianist, and improviser, Donal Fox expertly fuses jazz, Afro-Latin and classical idioms into intricate new works and electrifying performances. Praised by *The Boston Globe* as “unique and utterly commanding,” Fox de- and reconstructs Bach, Piazzolla, Schumann, Monk, Schoenberg and more, adding propulsive grooves and using composed themes as springboards for glorious improvisational flights that blend baroque with bebop, twelve-tone techniques with twelve-bar blues.

Fox premiered his “Monk and Bach Project” at Jazz at Lincoln Center, his “Scarlatti Jazz Suite Project” at Tanglewood, and his piano concerto *Peace Out* for Improvised Piano and Orchestra at Carnegie Hall with the American Composers Orchestra. He was recently featured at the Skaneateles Festival with his Inventions Trio and special guest Hilary Hahn. Fox’s *Hear De Lambs A-Cryin’* for baritone and orchestra saw its New York premiere at Carnegie Hall with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and his “Piazzolla to Bach Project” premiered at Tanglewood Jazz Festival with special guest Maya Beiser.

Fox’s fluency across genres has led to collaborations with the likes of Oliver Lake, David Murray, Regina Carter, George Mraz, John Stubblefield, Elliott Sharp, Al Foster, Stefon Harris, Christian Scott, Terri Lyne Carrington, Quincy Troupe, and many others.

In April 2013, Fox made a special appearance, along with Imani Winds and Roy Eaton, on WQXR’s “Emancipation 150” series, hosted by Terrance McKnight and Helga Davis, for an evening honoring the African American experience in classical music. In December 2012, he joined Paul Elie, author of *Reinventing Bach*, on WBUR’s Radio Open Source with Christopher Lydon in a conversation about the music and influence of J.S. Bach.

Among his many accolades, Donal Fox has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bugliasco Fellowship, and an Academy Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. After serving as the first African American composer-in-residence with the St. Louis Symphony, he was appointed Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2009-11. Fox has also been composer-in-residence at Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus (Germany), Tyrone Guthrie Centre (Ireland), Djerassi Resident Artist Program, Liguria Study Center (Italy), Tanglewood Contemporary Music Festival, and others.

A Steinway Artist, Fox has recorded for New World Records, Evidence Records, Music & Arts, Passin’ Thru Records, Yamaha’s Original Artist Series, and Wergo Records. His works are published by Margun Music, G. Schirmer, and Leonellis Music.