

*Knick Smith™ (Nick Smith)* is an American born Jazz Pianist. An alumnus of



Berklee College of Music, he was a member of the Jay Leno Tonight Show Band. Nick has scored for film and TV. He has performed with many artists including: Stevie Wonder, Queen Latifah, Najee, Stanley Clarke, George Duke, Kenny Garrett, Eric Benet, Eddie Harris, Noel Pointer, Michele Polnariff, The Jamaica Boys, Brandi, Freddie Jackson, and Mark Antoine.

Nick's latest CD release, "Romance" (Knick Smith™) is Contemporary Jazz. His previous CD projects, "INFLUENCED" (Nick Smith) and "It's Like That" (Nick Smith), are Straight Ahead Jazz. Nick's catalog of original compositions features Jazz

(Straight Ahead, Fusion, and Contemporary), Country, Pop, Rock, R&B, and Funk.

Nick is passionate about the need for excellence and the mastery of all aspects of his craft, from performing to composing to producing. He recognizes that while music a great source of enjoyment, music is a serious business. He considers Jazz a spiritual, versatile, and challenging art form and is devoted to providing performances that adhere to the correct form of the composition with persistently lyrical, stratospheric comping. He is a musician's musician—believing that there are only two types of music, good music and good music that is badly interpreted.

Some of the pianists that have influenced Nick are Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, McCoy Tyner, Hazel Scott, Mary Lou Williams, William 'Red' Garland, Wynton Kelly, Art Tatum, Kenny Kirkland, Billy Childs, Oscar Peterson, Chick Corea, and Errol Garner. When composing, Nick seeks to express the sounds that he hears and feels—surpassing ordinary and reaching for supreme. Currently working on multiple projects, Nick has the firm conviction that one should always give their best. He feels that the rhythm gets you grooving, the melody makes the song, the message is the music, and the music is the truth.

Nick believes that older musicians should reach out to younger musicians to promote their interest in the fundamentals of great music and provide guidance in increasing their skills. Nick supports several schools and charitable organizations. He has scored/arranged for a local high school jazz band. Currently working on multiple projects, Nick always strives to give his audience the best show possible. As a mentor, he encourages the emphatic pursuit of excellence in performance and seeks to provide guidance through example.