

STU HARRISON

Piano

Stu Harrison began his studies with great achievements in the world of classical music – that is, until his love of jazz took over and lead his musical journey in a new direction.

As a child, Stu began piano instruction at age 3, completing studies through the Suzuki Method, then later studying with several acclaimed Royal Conservatory-trained instructors. He soon branched out into a wide variety of musical settings, from choir direction to church organist, and finally to jazz. Stu attended the University of Toronto's Jazz Performance program, graduating with Honours in 2003.

Upon completion his studies at U of T, Harrison founded his own commercial music company, providing musical services for several high-profile clients. During this same period, he was Music Director and Composer for Garden Brothers Circus, performing more than 1000 shows to well over 2 million people.

Since 2006, Harrison has been working with Merriam Music, the largest private music school in Canada as well as its highest volume piano dealer, taking on a variety of roles from retail sales and marketing, to curriculum development and teaching. His role at Merriam Music continues to advance and develop.

In 2016, Stu released his debut album – *Volume 1* - featuring some of Canada's finest jazz musicians, including legendary players Terry Clarke and Neil Swainson. He followed this up in 2020 with *Slow It Down* – a critically-acclaimed duo album with celebrated vocalist Stu Mac.

Harrison continues to perform, compose, arrange, and work as musical director regularly throughout Canada and the US.