

TONY PANCELLA

Performances in theatres and jazz-clubs and international jazz festivals all over **Italy, U.S.A., Germany, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Greece, UK, Bulgaria, Israel.**

Many **radio and television** interviews and concerts broadcasted by italian RAI, DeutschlandRadio, BayernRadio, Croatian Television, Israel Radio and Television, RIFF (WorldSpace Corporation USA), etc.

Best New Talent in Italy (Rome 1989) in a competition organized by Rome's most prominent jazz-club: the "Music Inn" and **Best New Emerging** Italian Jazz Group (Forli' 1990) at the 7th annual Forli' Jazz Competition.

Basically a self taught musician and a natural talent, his exposure to jazz began very early with performances by his father, a pianist himself; subsequently studied piano in 1981- 82 at the *Siena Jazz Clinics*, and in New York with James Williams and Larry Willis, two of his main piano influences and mentors.

Collaborations with international top musicians like **Charles Tolliver, Jimmy Owens, Ray Mantilla, Jimmy Knepper, Steve Turre, Lee Konitz, John Mosca, Tony Scott, Joe Magnarelli, Bobby Durham, Cameron Brown, Ulf Radelius, Kim Parker, Keith Copeland, Virginia Mayhew, Robert Anchipolovsky, Jure Pukl, Magdalena Reising, Steve Thompson, Shay Zelman, Gilad Abro, Uri Bracha, Dima Grodsky, Miles Griffith, Paul Beaudry, Aaron Walker, David Pleasant, Larry Willis, Buddy De Franco, Phil Woods, Deborah Brown, Eliot Zigmund, Helen Merrill** and many others.

Teacher at the "Manager of Music Communication" 1st level Master 2004 at the "G.D'Annunzio" University in Chieti.

Mentor in Jazz Piano at the 2004 edition of "Jazzinty" Workshop in Novo Mesto (Slovenia).

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Tony Pancella Trio/Quartet	"DICE" (Philology W62) 1990
Tony Pancella & Pierpaolo Pecoriello	"TETRACOLORS" (Philology W63.2) 1990
Tony Pancella	"BASICJAZZTRIO" (Philology W115.2) 1996
Marcello Sebastiani	"SUITE & SONGS" (Splasc(h)) 1996
Tony Pancella BasicJazzTrio	"KEEP THIS IN MIND" (YVP 3066) 1998
Mauro De Federicis	"MINORISMI" (Philology W 159.2) 1998
Tony Pancella Trio	"DIFFERENT STORIES" (YVP 3088) 2000
VV.AA.	"I'M IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE" (YVP 3086) 2001
VV.AA.	"TOP JAZZ FROM ITALY VOL.2" (YVP)
Miles Griffith & Tony Pancella Trio	" I FOUND YOU" 2003
Aldo Vigorito & TP Duet	"ECHO" – to be released
Larry Willis – Tony Pancella Duet	"ALTER EGO" 2006 (Mapleshade Rec. USA)
Miles Griffith & Tony Pancella Trio	"SMILE AGAIN" MG Music 2005 USA
Miles Griffith & TP Trio	"THE STRUGGLE NEVER DIES!" MG Music 2007
Magdalena Reising Quartet	"COMIN' HOME" 2009
Uri Bracha – Tony Pancella Duet	"DIFFERENT LIKE 2 DROPS OF WATER"
Rhythm'n Sing SeXtet	" DIWINE JAZZ" (2010)
Eric Niceberg – TP Piano Duet	"LIVE AT PIANO WORLD" (2010)

TONY PANCELLA

(by Pierre M. Sprey

Mapleshade Records producer)

“Born in Chieti, Italy in 1959, Tony grew up in a family of musicians. His grandfather was a classical violinist, his grandmother a classical pianist. Tony's father rebelled, becoming a professional jazz pianist.

His jazz was entirely self-taught, mostly by listening to Oscar Peterson and Erroll Garner. Tony grew up immersed in both his father's jazz and his grandparents' classics. By six he was playing piano by ear and leaning towards jazz. Like his father, he was self-taught—as a pianist, as a composer and as a percussionist.

He picked up his first professional gig at 18, touring Italy as a percussionist with a Renaissance music ensemble. But his first love remained jazz and by 22 he was leading his own jazz trio and quartet touring Northern Italy. Two years later he took time out to attend an intensive and inspiring Max Roach workshop. Among all the workshop participants, the great drummer picked Tony to accompany him for the final concert.

A year before, Tony's passion for piano duets was kindled when his father headlined a large theater jazz concert in Chieti. He asked Tony to join him on stage for a two-piano set, including a tricky Paul Desmond tune in 11/4. Scared to death, Tony jammed for 20 minutes with his father—to tremendous acclaim from the fans. Tony loved the challenge so much that he has continued to return to the piano duet format throughout his career. Within a year after the Max Roach workshop, Tony played with cool jazz pioneer Lee Konitz, then on tour in Italy. Since then, he has played with many more jazz greats, among them Buddy DeFranco, Phil Woods, Bobby Durham, Ray Mantilla, Steve Turre, Jimmy Knepper, Charles Tolliver and Jimmy Owens.

In 1989 in Rome, he was awarded Best New Talent In Italy; in 1990 he won the Best Emerging Italian Jazz Group competition. The awards led to Tony's first two records on the Philology label in 1990. He has appeared on 12 CDs since then.

In 1991, he made his pilgrimage to the jazz scene in New York, playing around the city with saxophonist Virginia Mayhew and studying with two of his icons, Larry Willis and James Williams. He returned to Italy inspired by their teachings—and his European career took off.

By now he has toured major clubs and festivals throughout the Continent: Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Greece, UK, Croatia and Serbia, not to mention Israel where he also has a serious following. Much of his touring is as co-leader of the Miles Griffith -Tony Pancella Quartet.

When Larry, on tour in Italy in 1999 with Roy Hargrove, came to the Pescara Jazz Festival (next door to Chieti where Tony lives and teaches), Tony reconnected with his old mentor. They hung out together, played duo piano jams daily at the local Steinway dealer's, and Tony introduced Larry to the burgeoning Pescara jazz scene. That resulted in Larry coming back the next year for a one week engagement with his trio. At the end of the week Larry and Tony played a two night gig for two pianos—a huge success.

That was so much fun that they played again as a piano duet at the 2003 Tel Aviv Jazz Festival. Later in 2003, they toured Italy as a duo; the music was so good that, before the end of the tour, the Alter Ego project was born.”

Quotes...

"Two pianos – one vision. Tony Pancella and Larry Willis have released a duo album titled "Alter Ego" and with their flow and beautiful lines, it is hard sometimes to see when they do alter, and that's what makes this album superb (...)"

- Brenton Plourde (JAZZREVIEWS.COM)

"...the music can be delicate and lovely, and it can be intensely swinging. (...)there are plenty of other moments that will bring joy to jazz piano fans."

-Will Smith (JAZZ TIMES)

"...This one is A-1 material all the way!

(...)Willis and Pancella have an intimate feeling for each other's approach to the keyboard..."

-John Henry (AUDIOPHILE AUDITION)

"...This set seems to be a hymn to the rhapsodic as two virtuosos play a handful of tunes that lend themselves to lush, melodic interplay (...)

It flows forward in increasing beauty..."

- Donald Elfman (ALLABOUTJAZZ.COM)

".... he's naturally talented, in full and constant growing as a pianist and arranger; his well-balanced trio offers an exciting music, very elaborate but at the same time full of emotions and spontaneity..."

Mario Luzzi (MUSICA JAZZ Magazine)

"Elegant phrasing, harmonic research, precious skills as trio arranger, enlightened by a flowing swing that Lester Young would definitely have appreciated. I'm talking about Tony Pancella."

Franco D'Andrea (international top jazz pianist - Liner notes CD "BasicJazzTrio)

"...You will be the most important important new talent top musician on my label."

York von Prittwitz (YVP Record Company producer - Germany)

"...a cursory hearing of this record with no information volunteered would most likely have led many people to believe that it was an established and bright young trio from NYC... (...) ...these players sound the same as their US counterparts. If you enjoy piano trio jazz played with plenty of originality, go for this set. "

Derek Ansell (JAZZ JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL – London, UK)

"If there was such a thing as a "pure jazz musician" in this multicultural global village of ours, then Italian pianist Tony Pancella would have a strong claim to the title..."

Barry Davis (THE JERUSALEM POST – Israel)

"If you were enamored by the Bill Evans Trio sound, especially in the beginning years, you will love this group. Beautiful tunes, lyrical moods and tasteful playing by all three wonderful musicians in complete empathy."

Dave Liebman (international top jazz musician)

" In listening to this CD, I have been amazed at how much raw emotion is conveyed and absorbed after each new listening. Tony Pancella has matured into one of the most promising pianist of his generation. With the support of two wonderful and masterful colleagues, in Ulf Radelius (who first introduced me to Tony several years ago), and Pietro Iodice (an extremely gifted and sensitive

drummer who does a masterful job of coloring all of the musical tapestries which are always flowing on this recording), Tony has assembled and masterfully crafted an effervescent collage of musical sounds which cover at least 4 decades of musical and stylistic development. It is a beautiful and very emotionally stimulating experience to listen to Tony Pancella at this special time in his life. I can say, unequivocally, that each successive listening of this CD gets better, which is really what this art form is all about!!"

Keith Copeland (international top jazz musician)

"Tony Pancella has a lot of credit among the jazz piano fans in Japan. This new CD fully satisfies their expectations. The original compositions are great. I felt completely in love with those melodies which go straight into the heart of the Japanese's feelings. (...) also Tino Tracanna on tenor saxophone sounds beautiful: bitter, in a positive meaning, like a good cup of tea or coffe..."

(Yamamoto Takashi – Tokio, Japan)

" Listening to *Different Stories*, you'll find a full and rich music, but intimate and sophisticated in its many impressionistic moments. Pancella's style comes from Bill Evans and it goes through soft colors' landscapes, searching with great mastery a neat, sharp sound, with a soft, clear touch. Its overall sound is so fascinating because it goes straight to high musical quality without any artifice. We must underline at this point the marvellous technical quality of the recording: straight to two-tracks, with no effects or editing, which shows to anybody how this kind of technical care makes the listening experience so intense, especially when the artistic level is so high. "

(Pier Luigi Zanzi – SUONO Hi Fi Magazine)

"When listening to this new CD, you'll easily be fascinated by Tony Pancella's elegant phrasing. This emotion is renewed after each new listening: the spontaneity and enthusiasm of this group, together with the harmonic complexity of this music, make *Different Stories* so interesting and convincing..."

(Laura D'Inca – AllAboutJazz Italy –)

" Tony Pancella is a good representative of the tradition that came out of Bud Powell and then has been refined by musicians like Tommy Flanagan, Sonny Clark and John Lewis, but you can also hear the lyricism and refined sense of harmony that was the trade mark of Bill Evans.

On "Different Stories" we hear beautiful and sensitive jazz trio of the best quality..."

(Skånska Dagbladet Magazine – Sweden)

"Miles Griffith is a very talented, multi-faceted singer who can croon short and sweet as in "Hello Friend" or, using his voice instrumentally, can unleash passionate, informed swing as in his version of Thelonious Monk's "We See." I like Tony's solo on "Autumn in New York" and Miles scatting here combined the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic beautifully.

We see and we hear. Oo-pa-pa-da."

Ira Gitler, Author/Historian/Critic

"In the vein of notable names such as Jon Hendricks, Al Jarreau and Kurt Elling, jazz vocalist Miles Griffith has a resounding presence filled with earthiness and panache. For his second release, *Smile Again*, Italian jazz pianist Tony Pancella and his trio/quartet join him for a rousing venture of traditional and modern compositions. Covering the sounds of mainstream and modern jazz, the album literally takes flight with "Arioso (Take Flight And Be Free)," where Griffith provides warm and colorful lyrics, and the band swings divinely. From the urban/rural reflections of "Life in The City" to the dark clouds of "Here's That Rainy Day," the vocals and the music cover a broad area of moods. The band is also tight, as on "Domingo," where Pancella's trio delivers impeccable timing and solos, and Griffith provides his own vocal instrument..."

Mark F.Turner (allaboutjazz.com)

****** NEW! FROM "LIVE @ PIANO WORLD" CD LINER NOTES....**

"Both being accomplished jazz players as well as equally accomplished pianists, we move kaleidoscopically from gut bucket stride-like playing to contemporary jazz improvising to what can only be described as sections, areas, crevices in the music that sound like pure textural playing employing all manner of contemporary harmony, melody and rhythm. The transitions between areas are natural, and the ability of the two to follow each other around in the improvised stylistic journey of each piece is wonderful. (I have a feeling one of them was using a GPS). The feeling of movement, of travel within the music is infectious and unique as well, doesn't really move quite like anything I've heard before."

Eliot Zigmund

"Tony and Eric are definitely virtuosos with the ability to express all emotions musically. Their energy-levels always peaked as though "on fire" and by listening intuitively, they provide a flexible "give and take" that creates a natural horizontal flow.

Much like the blindfolded chess player visualizing moves on a board of 64 black and white squares, I listen with closed eyes and envision intervals scattered across an imaginary keyboard of 88 blacks and whites; thus, my concentration as well as auditory senses are enhanced; with eyes shut, your ears work more proficiently.

Being a piano aficionado, I'll avoid comparing their talents because I listen philosophically and search for aesthetics that thrill the ears; which in this case, both of mine are indeed."

Walter Norris