**Jeff D’Antona, Piano & Keyboards**

Performer, Composer, Educator

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Jeff D’Antona, Boston-based pianist, composer, and educator, beamed with pride when his trio’s first CD imported into iTunes under the genre “Unclassifiable.” Not your typical jazz pianist, D’Antona has merged pieces of his folk and R&B roots, formal jazz and classical education, and experience touring with a live hip-hop group to create a genre all his own.

D’Antona refers to it as “instrumental-folk music” but he’d rather you come up with your own name. Regardless of what you call it, his purpose is simple: do away with the over-complexity and big egos that drive much of instrumental music today and strip it down to something simpler - something that takes the essence of all the music he has grown-up with, all the elements of music that makes him feel good, and create something original and in-the-moment that he can share with his audience.

His playing is lyrical and moody, ranging from emotional intensity to subtle sensitivity.  His compositions are as diverse as his influences, integrating memorable melodies reminiscent of folk and classical themes, jazz harmonies, and the grooves of hip-hop, R&B, and Afro-Cuban music.

Jeff's most recent release, *Ocean Rising*, received acclaim as an “Editor’s Pick” at CDBaby.com, where staff writers awarded it a five-star review, calling it a “genre-bending, evocative release.” While keeping the focal point of the record the dynamic improvisations, group interaction, and original compositions of his trio, Jeff experimented with studio production to add another element of depth to his evolving voice, evoking the sounds of modern hip-hop and rock production. Staying true to an 'anything goes' mantra regarding repertoire, D'Antona compliments original compositions with covers of songs by Radiohead, the Beatles, and George and Ira Gershwin.

The Jeff D'Antona Trio, with Makaya McCraven on drums and Tristan Gutner on bass, formed in 2005 after Jeff completed his undergraduate music degree at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.  The newly formed trio honed their sound and seemingly telepathic interaction skills at a weekly residency at a local café, quickly building a local following.  A year later, they released their first CD, *Offering*, a live concert recorded at the Pushkin, an art gallery in Greenfield, MA.  "A finely balanced piano jazz trio in the tradition of Jamal, Evans, Jarrett, Mehldau, et al, but D'Antona is not attempting to be a clone of those masters.  He sounds like he's finding his own very lyrical playing and composing voice, interacting beautifully with strong and solid work by Tristan Gutner and the very dynamic Makaya McCraven" (Ron Freshly, 'Fresh Sounds,' WMUA).

In addition to working with his trio, Jeff is sought after as an accompanist, arranger, and producer. His trio’s work with tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp was recorded for a French film score and nominated for a "Best Original Score" Cesar Award, the French film industry's equivalent to an Academy Award. For several years, he toured with live hip-hop outfit Cold Duck Complex, which was awarded “Best Hip-Hop” group for four consecutive years *(Valley Advocate)* and opened for acts including Digable Planets, Rahzel, and 50 Cent.

D’Antona has worked as an accompanist and arranger for R&B/gospel singer Evelyn Harris of Sweet Honey in the Rock, as well as R&B/jazz vocalist Leah Randazzo, with whom he appeared at nationally recognized venues Blue Note NYC and the Regatta Bar. His producer credits include singer-songwriter Sandy Bailey’s debut album *Raven’s Flesh* as well as composer/guitarist David “Goody” Goodrich’s upcoming *Blues, Ballads, and other Southern Anthems.*

Jeff finds his work as a music educator inspiring and fulfilling and enjoys working with young, developing musicians. He has a full schedule of teaching at community colleges, high schools, and in his own studio, The Piano Shed.In 2012, Jeff graduated from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College with a Master's degree in Jazz Performance, where he was recognized for his achievements on jazz piano as the recipient of the "Sir Roland Hanna Award.”