

Otmaro Ruiz

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EDUCATION:

Master of Fine Arts in Jazz Performance. California Institute of the Arts. May 1993.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz Performance. California Institute of the Arts. May 1991.

"Simon Bolivar" University .Caracas, Venezuela. Biological Sciences (1980-83).

"Juan Manuel Olivares" State Musical Conservatory, Caracas, Venezuela (1972-83).

INSTRUMENTS:

Piano, Synthesizers, Popular / Classical Organ, Classical Guitar

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct Jazz Piano Faculty at USC University of Southern California (2009-2015) –
Private Lessons, Jazz Combos.

Piano Faculty at Cornell School of Contemporary Music (at Shepherd University) (2010-2017) –
Private Lessons, Advanced Harmony Concepts, Elements of Brazilian/Afro-Cuban Musical Styles.

Keyboard Instructor at GRAMMY CAMP from 2005-2010.

Worldwide Clinics/Master Classes (1993-Present).

Private Teaching & Coaching (1993-Present).

Visiting Artist Appearances (1993-Present).

6 Instructional Titles on the MyMusicMasterClass.com Platform.

AS PERFORMER WITH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ ARTISTS: Have appeared on ALL major International Musical Festivals and Recordings as Pianist, Keyboardist and/or Musical Director of:

- Randy Brecker, Bill Evans and Simon Phillips SOULBOP European Tour (Fall 2018-Present)
- Simon Phillips & Protocol IV (World Tours 2017-Present)
- Lado B Brazilian Project (Grammy Nominated CD and Tours 2016-Present)
- Billy Cobham & Spectrum 40 South America Tour (2016)
- Lee Ritenour (World Tours 2014-Present)
- John McLaughlin (World Tour and Live Recording) 1998 and "Industrial Zen" (2006)
- "Jing Chi" (with Jimmy Haslip, Robben Ford & Vinnie Colaiuta) Tour and Live CD (2002)
- Dianne Reeves (World Tours & LIVE Grammy Winner Recording 1997-2001)
- Gino Vannelli's Band (World Tours 1995-2001)
- Arturo Sandoval's Band (World Tours, Recordings 1994-2001)

- Steve Winwood “Latin Crossings Tour” with Tito Puente and Arturo Sandoval (1998)
- Herb Alpert’s Band World Tour, Recording 1997)
- Frank Gambale's Band (World Tours, Recordings 1994-2008)
- Alain Caron Le Band (World Tours, Recordings 1996-2005)

Other artists include:

Akira Jimbo, Brian Bromberg, Red Halloway, Ralph Moore’s Quartet, Brandon Fields, Ben Clatworthy, Charlie Haden Liberation Music Orchestra, Kleber Jorge, Nana Caymmi (U.S. West Coast Tour 96’ Monterey Jazz Festival), Dori Caymmi, Alex Acuña, Abraham Laboriel. Dave Valentin, Billy Higgins' Quintet, Paquito D’Rivera

STUDIO WORK:

5 Solo Releases, “CATINA DELUNA AND LADO B BRAZILIAN PROJECT – FEATURING OTMARO RUIZ” (2016 – Grammy Nominee), “SOJOURN” (2008), “LATINO” (2005), “NOTHING TO HIDE” (1996), "DISTANT FRIENDS" (1993) and "OTMARO RUIZ Plays RYUICHI SAKAMOTO" (1992) **As Composer, Arranger, Producer and Musical Conductor**. Musical Production for TV, radio, and movie commercials for Advertising Companies such as J. Walter Thompson, McCann, ARS, VAPRO, Fischer Fineman, CORPA, Leo Burnett, and others (Products: McDonalds, Viceroy, General Electric, Newport, General Motors, Renault, Fiat, Jeep, Lee, Wrangler, Mennen and others). **Credits include Award Winning Independent Film soundtracks and TV/Radio Commercials as Composer / Producer**. As a performer, has appeared in many big hit Hollywood movie soundtracks. Albums with major Venezuelan & American Pop, Jazz and Rock artists, and TV station orchestras.

AWARDS:

- 2019 Double Latin Grammy Nominee – Best Arrangement / Best Jazz Album
- 2016 Grammy Award Nominee - Best Arrangement Instrumental/Vocal
- 2012 Honorary Doctorate Degree from Shepherd University (Korea-USA)
- Certificate from The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for participation as Pianist/Keyboardist in Dianne Reeve's GRAMMY award winning Live recording "In The Moment" (2000)
- Grammy Nomination (2000) for collaboration as composer/performer in Alex Acuña's release "Acuarela de Tambores"
- Winner of the "2004 Audie Award" in the Children Production Category and Bronze Remi at the 2004 Worldfest - Houston International Film Festival. for the Soundtrack of "Chato and The Party Animals"
- Special Award “International Exposure” from the Venezuelan National Artist’s Institute (for outstanding career in a foreign country)
- International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) Recognition Diploma (1994)
- Miami International Jazz Festival Showcase / Best Jazz Ensemble- Trio (1989) Florida, USA
- Voted “Best Pianist 2008” and “Artist of the New Generation 2008” by the “Latin Jazz Corner” Magazine

LANGUAGES: English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Brazilian Portuguese (intermediate), Italian (basic), Japanese (basic)

AFFILIATIONS: Member of Musicians Union Local 47, ASCAP, NARAS and LARAS.