

## Bio (Long):

Originally from Philadelphia, Ben studied both classical and jazz music before moving to the great city of Chicago. There he spent years performing and working with the top musicians in town, absorbing the unique blend of Jazz and Blues that can only be found in the Windy City. **Now re-located to New York, Ben is poised to bring his unique talents and style to a wider audience**, combining hard-swinging grooves and melodic improvisation with an impeccable touch.

Whether playing lush ballads on the piano, digging into some hard-driving blues-tinged organ jazz on the Hammond B3, or singing classic tunes made by the likes of Ray Charles and Nat King Cole, **Ben has garnered international acclaim for his superb musicianship and engaging performances**, able to draw in both aficionados and Jazz neophytes alike.

Notable performances include **opening for acts such as B.B. King, Buddy Guy, and Steely Dan**, the Montreal Jazz Festival, Chicago Jazz and Blues Festivals, shows in France, China, Belgium, Switzerland, Mexico, Sweden, and Taiwan, and bookings at premier Jazz venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Rainbow Room, Smalls Jazz Club, Smoke Jazz, Mezzrow, The Jazz Showcase, The Green Mill and The Jazz Gallery to name a few.

Starting in 2005, **Ben was honored to work as pianist for NEA jazz master Von Freeman**, performing with him regularly until Von's passing in August 2012. Other notable collaborations include work with Bobby Broom, Johnny O'Neal, Red Holloway, Eldee young, Jerry Weldon, Peter Bernstein, Guy King, Ed Cherry, Dave Specter, Henry Johnson, Marianne Solivan, Kimberly Gordon, Martina DaSilva, Vanessa Perea, and many others.

Ben has released 4 albums under his own name: 3 piano discs: Breathing Space (OA2 Records 2007) Blues For Oscar (Meetinghouse Records 2012), and Essential Elements (MAXJAZZ 2013) and one organ trio CD: **For Once In My Life (Origin Records 2016), given 4 stars by Downbeat Magazine.**