

Vana Gierig

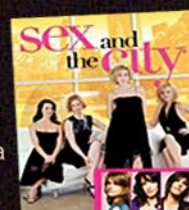
is one of New York's premier jazz pianists and composers. His award-winning, virtuosic performance and style and musical direction has been recognized worldwide and has been integral

to many international tours and recordings by artists such as Regina Carter, Rachelle Ferrell, Lena Horne, Ute Lemper, George Howard, Special EFX, Najee, Warren Hill, Will Downing, and many others.

Two years ago, Vana was presented by legendary bassist Eddie Gomez as an outstanding next generation pianist in a special 3-day presentation at the Iridium Jazz Club in Manhattan. He consequently sold out 2 shows at the New York Blue Note and opened for Dionne Warwick with his critically acclaimed quartet called Vana Trio plus Brazilian Percussion, a unique mix of musical cultures, mixing classic jazz piano trio with New York funk, Brazilian, as well as European influences. He has also been touring special projects evolving around the core Vana Trio, such as the Vana Trio plus Brazilian Percussion, as well as the new project of the Vana Trio plus Strings. He has been presenting both, most recently in concerts in Istanbul, Lisbon, Espinho (Portugal), and New York.

Film / TV

HBO's *Sex and the City* solicited Vana in 2003 to compose and record a special piece for the season finale with Sarah Jessica Parker and Mikhail Baryshnikov.



In 2007, Showtime's TV series *The L Word*, chose his composition and recording of "An Awakening Thought" for one of their episodes.



Vana's compositions have also been solicited by the Emmy award winning PBS program *City Arts* and BET's *Bet on Jazz*, among others.

Three of his compositions from his CD *Small Regrets* are featured on the soundtrack of the indie film *Sins of Fate* which has been recognized in both the Sundance and Zoë International Film Festivals. The highly acclaimed European TV channel Arte featured Vana and his group in a profile, *Werner Vana Gierig - Jazz pianist in New York City*, on Europe's most-watched cultural program *Metropolis*. His countless live TV performances include a 2002 PBS appearance on *An Evening with the Boston Pops*. *BET's Jazz Central*, *Treffpunkt Kultur* on ORF 2 in Austria, CBS' *60 Minutes II*, CNN and PBS and A&E live appearances, NBC's *Today Show*, FOX and Telemundo *Live from the Blue Note* in New York, Nancy Wilson's show and numerous international TV appearances including Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Curaçao, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, and England.

Recordings

Vana was executive producer, artistic musical director, composer and pianist on Regina Carter's #1 album *Paganini: After a Dream* (Verve/Universal). He was deeply involved in the vision and realization of the historic idea for Regina to become the first non-classical musician allowed to perform on Paganini's priceless violin, and it was to become the only instrumental #1 album on the Billboard charts in years. The recording, as well as the historic concerts at Lincoln Center in New York and in Genoa were extensively covered by CBS' *60 Minutes II* (Charlie Rose), NPR's *All Things Considered*, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Oprah Winfrey's *O Magazine*, *Downbeat*, *JazzTimes* and countless other media.

Vana was also a featured pianist and composer on the 2006 NPR Jazz Christmas CD, *Marianne McPartland & Friends*, for which he co-wrote *The Moon on Christmas Eve* with Kathryn Williams. In 2004, he won the SESAC Performance Activity Award for his composition *Healing In Foreign Lands* on a #1 Album, which *Downbeat Magazine* called "divine" and "a luminous testimony to Vana's sizable talent."

After his critically acclaimed debut CD *Small Regrets* and the follow-up *A New Day* (Challenge Records), which charted for weeks in the top of the Jazz Radio Charts, Vana is working on several releases this year. Promotional copies of his live CD have just been shipped, and he is working on a DVD release, as well as an upcoming studio recording, involving Vana's group plus Strings.



Vana Trio plus
Brazilian percussion Live



Small Regrets