

Media Bio:

John F. Hammond
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Don Heckman - *LA Times*: “John Hammond is one of the Southland’s great jazz treasures.”

Al Martinez - *LA Times*: “Watching John play is to observe a master at work.”

Chuck Niles (*KKJZ*) “John Hammond is maybe the best kept secret in L.A., folks -- one hell of a piano player!”

Carmen McCrae “John is an extraordinary accompanist and musician- The Best!”

Gene Shalit - *Today Show*: “One very elegant pianist.”

John F. Hammond is a native Texan and a graduate of The Houston Conservatory of Music. His early accomplishments include numerous young artist awards and several performances as guest soloist with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski conductor. During his early years, he developed an obsession with jazz and worked extensively with Texas jazz greats Arnette Cobb, and Jimmy Ford.

After relocating to Los Angeles in 1968, John seamlessly transitioned into the West Coast jazz scene and became a first call studio player. He has performed or recorded with Joe Williams, Sarah Vaughn, Mel Torme, Carmen McCrae, Tina Turner, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Lewis, Lou Rawls, Bob Hope, Kenny Rogers, The Spinners, Englebert Humperdinck, Joe Pass, Mundell Lowe, Herb Ellis, John Pisano, Ray Brown, Leroy Vinegar, Jim Hughart, Lanny Morgan, Herb Alpert, Bob Sheppard, Ray Pizzi, Pete Christlieb, Carl Saunders, Steve Huffsteter, and the list goes on and on.

John is also prominent in the music community as a composer, songwriter, conductor, and an industry consultant. His songs have been recorded by artists as varied as George Benson, Dave Van Ronk, O.C. Smith, Cuba Gooding, Bobby Womack, Gloria Loring and Thelma Houston. He also worked as Musical Director for such notables as Michael Jackson, The Jackson 5, Carmen McCrae, Jermaine Jackson, Bobby Vinton, Lainie Kazan, John Gary, and Gloria Loring.

As a guest conductor, John has lead orchestras around the world: BBC Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, Radio City Music Hall Orchestra, Sidney Television Orchestra, New Orleans Symphony Orchestra, ABC, NBC, CBS Television Orchestras, etc.

As a consultant, John has worked on numerous films and television projects. John teamed up with Dave Grusin to perform the Oscar nominated piano music for the film “The Fabulous Baker Boys”. He also coached and produced Michele Pfeifer’s vocal performances for this picture.

John spent ten years as resident jazz pianist and music director for the luxury hotels Shutters On The Beach and Casa Del Mar in Santa Monica CA. From there he served as musical director and resident bandleader for two years at “Fitzgeralds” in Woodland Hills. He is currently musical director and creator of The Back Room, a jazz club in Canoga Park.

John considers himself to be an eclectic player, having spent his career playing and recording everything from mainstream jazz to Motown and pop.

John’s self-titled debut CD “John F. Hammond” has recieved critical acclaim and is available on his web site and in the usual record outlets.