

PIANO CHAMELEONS

Masterclasses and Workshop Opportunities

Matt Herskowitz and **John Roney** are acclaimed pianists of international caliber, fluent in the classical and jazz idioms, and who also manage to combine them in fresh and exciting ways.

Each pianist arrived at this intersection from opposite directions: Matt came to jazz via classical music, and John to classical via jazz.

Together, as **Piano Chameleons**, they have created a unique blend of genres that seamlessly blends virtuosity and artistic vision. To wit: it is the first ever piano duo that truly balances a classical sensibility with the freedom of jazz improvisation.

While on tour, these partners are eager to share the secrets of their trade with students, non professionals and all music lovers by means of masterclasses and workshops devised for intermediate and advanced levels.

To this end, teaching sessions in the 60 to 90-minute range can be devised, tailored to the abilities of the participants. Following an opening number from their repertoire and a brief introduction of themselves and their project, they will lead their audience into their creative process by inviting them to actively participate in the proceedings. They will focus on rhythm, texture and melody of a well-known work. This process will allow them to reveal various techniques and levels of improvisation and orchestration from a piano perspective.

For advanced students, they will introduce them to a wider range of concepts and approaches using examples from pieces in their repertoire. The presentation will end on a discussion and question period, followed by a closing encore.

Range of topics for discussion

Living in Harmony

- ✓ How to creatively integrate two disparate musical aesthetics while respecting the tradition of the original works.
- ✓ How to work together in an ensemble as two unique individuals.
- ✓ How to combine two niche musical styles and find a larger audience.
- ✓ How to involve the audience and musical community in the development of the project.
- ✓ How to integrate jazz harmonies into a classical language (advanced level).

Taking Chances

- ✓ Musically: how to begin improvising (or further it, for advanced students) by getting away from the 'written notes', and develop an original musical language.
- ✓ Artistically: how to carve out a new and/or unexploited musical niche, and find one's own artistic identity.
- ✓ Professionally: how to promote/market a new musical idea, form a team around the project, and get your music heard; how to set objectives and work efficiently to achieve career goals.

Additional activities (Group or Individual Coaching Sessions)

Matt and John are available to conduct sessions of their own with targeted student groups, in settings diverse as chamber ensembles, stage bands, combos, vocal ensembles, or individual piano lessons.

Rates

According to services requested.

Equipment and basic requirements

Conditional on on-site availabilities. To be determined with artists's agency as per terms outlined on the Website's Education page.

Artist's biographies

Matt Herskowitz is an esteemed graduate of the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School of Music who has garnered extensive international touring experience in both the classical and jazz fields.

John Roney holds degrees from the University of Toronto, UCLA, Berklee College of Music and McGill University. He has been a staff member of McGill University since 2003 and is currently a full-time faculty professor at Université de Montréal.

Matt and John reside in Montreal. In the Fall of 2016, their first album *Piano Caméléons* was issued on the Justin Time label. A follow up album is currently in the planing stages.

See 'Artists' page on the Website for further information.

CONTACT

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