

David F. was Adjunct Jazz Faculty at New York University since the Fall of 2014, where he taught 31 baccalaureates to doctoral private students per semester. As an active performer, studio session pianist/keyboardist, composer and arranger in New York City's jazz and Afro-Cuban music scenes, he regularly collaborated with numerous world-renowned artists; including Grammy winning saxophonist Joe Lovano, with whom he recorded an album at Dolan Studios in 2014. David has also performed with legendary saxophonist Chris Potter, Grammy winner bassist and composer Conal Fowkes and Latin Grammy winners, Albita Rodriguez and Amaury Gutierrez among others.

David was born in Holguin, Cuba in 1986 to parents of Lebanese, Spanish and English descent. With his diverse cultural background, he was not only exposed to the rich musical traditions of the island, but was also introduced to jazz and the art of improvisation by his father, touring jazz guitarist Vladimir Ramirez-Kamayd.

At the age of seven, David was admitted among six piano students out of 326 auditioning applicants to Escuela Vocacional de Artes. As a top conservatory in Cuba, built by the soviets, it was modeled after the Petro Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine, where greats such as Vladimir Horowitz studied. Within a few months, David was giving solo recitals performing works by Czerny, Clementi, Bach, as well as Cuban composers, and winning first place in piano competitions regionally and nationally. After entering the conservatory, the following three years consisted of rigorous training and assessment in order to identify students who exhibited prodigious abilities; with the most potential to lead a successful performance career. Out of the six students admitted, David was the only one who was able to meet the demanding requirements to proceed with the program.

By age 13 he was playing Chopin Etudes, Beethoven Sonatas and Bach Partitas. Not only is Escuela Vocacional de Artes a top conservatory worldwide, but it also fosters some of the highest recognized careers one can aspire to in Cuba; allowing individuals to legally leave the communist country to perform internationally. As a result, in 1999 he was able to travel to Mexico City, Latin America's Arts and Music capital, to audition at Centro Nacional de las Artes; the premier Arts University in the country. He was soon admitted as the only 13 year-old beginning a bachelor's degree in music performance at the university.

As an immigrant in a new country, David had to begin working at a very young age to help support himself. His natural skills as an improviser and jazz pianist allowed him to work alongside professional musicians in music festivals, concerts and local gigs at some of the top bars and restaurants in the capital. During this time, the city became progressively dangerous to live in, urging his family to seek political asylum in the United States in 2004.

David's status as a refugee presented a series of unprecedented obstacles to his career as a pianist. Unable to speak the language and continue his education, he was forced to take on odd jobs to survive. While hard labor became the new normal in his life, he

never stopped practicing the piano and writing music. Eight months after arriving to the United States, an invitation to visit Houston for a week turned into ten years when he was discovered playing jazz at a local restaurant by University of Houston piano professor, Timothy Hester. Within three months, David was awarded a full scholarship at the Moore's School of Music to complete his bachelor's degree in piano performance. He soon became a prominent performer as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician in both classical and jazz. During this time, he had to manage the challenges that come with being a refugee, assimilating to a new culture and being a college student, but that did not limit him from excelling in his career.

Since then, David has received a Master of Music from New York University, with the Steinhardt Graduate Scholarship award. With 12 years of experience teaching classical, jazz and pop to students ranging in age from 3 to 65 in New York, Houston, Miami, New Jersey and Mexico City; he was also awarded the opportunity to teach as an adjunct instructor among distinguished faculty at New York University.

David's performance career has taken him across borders and on to the brilliant stages of the Latin Grammy Awards, Lincoln Center, Wortham Theater Center, Hobby Center for Performing Arts, Miller Outdoor Theater, Bronx International Film Festival, and Museo Nacional de las Artes, to name a few. He has performed with notable jazz artists which include trumpeters: Wayne Bergeron, Lew Soloff; trombonists: Andy Martin, Conrad Herwig; saxophonists: Bill Evans, Seamus Blake; singers: Billy Strich, Diane Schuur and Ann Hampton-Calloway at jazz festivals and concerts.

David has a unique ability to expand among genres, allowing him to be flexible and versatile in his work; taking on multiple projects and collaborations. As a composer, arranger and music producer from Cuba, David's personal projects often reflect a diversity of influences, from his classical background, his passion for jazz, world music and his Afro-Cuban heritage. As Jose Marti once wrote, "Other famous men, those of much talk and few deeds, soon evaporate. Action is the dignity of greatness."

Words that reflect David's work ethic and pride in his career.