

**Paul Crocker** is a Toronto-based pianist and composer. He attended the jazz performance program at York University, where he studied privately for three years with internationally renowned jazz pianist Adrean Farrugia. While there, he also received instruction from pianist Mark Eisenman, and played in ensembles led by Kelly Jefferson, Jim Vivian and Kevin Turcotte. In addition to his time at York, Paul has also studied at the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Since coming to Toronto in 2007, Paul has kept a busy playing schedule that spans jazz, indie rock, rhythm & blues, classical and theatre music. He is a Musical Director at The Second City, where he works regularly accompanying improvised theatre and comedy shows, as well as teaching musical improv workshops at the Second City Training Centre. Through his involvement there he has also gone on to play for Black Swan Comedy, Radio Project X, and a variety of shows at the Comedy Bar, Tranzac, and the Toronto Fringe Festival (2012). With a keen interest in popular music, he plays regularly at the city's major rock venues including the Horseshoe Tavern, El Mocambo, Rivoli, Lee's Palace, as well as at major festivals like NXNE and Canadian Music Week.

As a jazz pianist Paul has played for countless singers and small groups at such venues as the Toronto Centre for the Arts, Music Gallery, the Rex, Top O' the Senator, Reservoir Lounge, Gate403, and at some of Toronto's finest restaurants and hotels. In 2010 he played a month-long residency in Mexico, near Guadalajara, with jazz singer Christine Hart. Since 2004 he has been the pianist and assistant organist for Georgian College under legendary theatre organist John Hart. Finally, playing Fender Rhodes as part of the bass-less Trio Triptych with saxophonist Chris Chekan and drummer Jon Foster, he has performed at the TD Toronto Jazz Festival (2012) and since early 2011, has held a residency at Poetry Jazz Café.

Paul's compositions have been featured on Jazz.FM91, at the LG Film Festival, and include commissions such as a three-movement orchestral suite for the Orillia Youth Symphony (*Panorama*, 2004), a modern dance score for the Pia Bouman School (*Snowglobe*, 2008), work with Theatre Stendhal (*ChristChristChrist*, 2012), plus a variety of film scores and soundtracks.

Paul teaches at the University Settlement Music & Arts School as well as at Bloor West Music Studios.