

BRIAN TURNER

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"I started playing piano when I was about 10 (kind of a late start). I started performing for large crowds at the mega-church my family attended when I was 12 and was immediately hooked on the rush I got from performing for thousands of people and being on local TV. I continued to perform around the area and started getting paying gigs in my teens. I felt like a rock star! That's a feeling I want to continue to have so it keeps me going. Image left (pianist, Brian Turner.) **'Everything in life'**

I think everything in life inspires me. I've had wonderful support from my family and amazing instructors through the years. That's key. Musically, there are too many influences to name but so many great artists in many different genres like jazz, rock, electronica, hip-hop and classical.

Truthfully, I rarely listen to this style of contemporary solo piano music. Just enough to see what other artists like myself are creating. I honestly get tired of hearing it but do enjoy composing it. **Earliest memory?**

I do remember noodling around on the piano at an after school childcare program at the YWCA as a kid. The teachers saw that I was creating and learning by ear, told my parents and that's when we started

piano lessons. I had music in my life before that though. My father is a musician and I've seen old (early 80's) pictures of me as an infant laying on the couch with a trumpet in my lap and a Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson records flanking me. I think I was bound to be a musician no matter what! **Proudest career moment to date?**

It's always fun to perform with or for a celebrity. There's an excitement and nervous feeling that goes with that. I think I play so many different styles of music every gig it's hard to pinpoint one thing.

It's great to sell my original solo piano music or hear it being aired across the globe, but it's also pretty amazing to rock out with Cliff Williams of AC/DC or be playing when Eric Clapton walks into the room. I mean, it's all relative... **How elite do you find the world of piano?**

Hmmm, better watch what I say here! I think there are fantastic pianists out there who not only write great music but can play well in any style. I like to think of myself in that category.

There are others who are pretty average players who maybe focus on one genre, but are very popular because they spend all of their time focusing on that one style and are great with marketing.

It's like that with music as a whole but I like to think the schooled and skilled pianists make the genre elite while others, ummm, balance it out... The world of piano is pretty broad. I think the contemporary solo piano style is a pretty small niche. **What's your favourite genre?**

I do have to say I'm a gear nut. I love to play acoustic piano of course and just recently bought a new Yamaha grand for my home. Nothing like that.

However, I do love to do gigs where I can play my Roland VK-8 organ through my Motion Sound rotating speaker for that B3 sound and my AX-Synth keytar for lead synth solos, and my Korg Triton which is my main rig, and my Rhodes when I feel like hauling it, etc....

Again, it all goes back to being versatile. I often do several gigs a week where you'll find me playing jazz piano at a restaurant one night, playing keys with a rock band the next night, playing a solo piano concert the next night and then playing classical piano and pipe organ at church Sunday morning. I think all of those skills definitely help each other out in so many ways. It all comes down to the same elements of music being used in different formats.

I like being versatile because music never becomes stale that way. Something new everyday. That's a good thing because it's easy to burn

out when you are paid to be creative everyday of your life. Being that I love so many styles, I don't think I could pick a favourite genre, but maybe jazz... I'm just happy to be able to do what I love for a living."

"Brian's classical training shines through on each and every one of his tracks and the diversity of his music crosses the boundaries of most genres. It would be as well defined in the top 10 classical chart, as much as it would sit comfortably on the next blockbuster movie soundtrack. His musical approach is not only sophisticated, with barely a note out of place, but his melodies will leave you feeling nostalgic." -Reviewcentre.com

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