

Ted Brancato Bio

Ted Brancato is a musician with four decades of experience in the music business. Since his early days, growing up in Seattle, WA, Ted has been actively performing, composing, arranging and recording music. Ted earned his bachelors degree in music from the University of Washington. While in Seattle Ted quickly became one of the most “in demand” pianists, both in the recording studio and in the jazz clubs. Ted was called on to accompany many jazz headliners that came through town – jazz greats such as Milt Jackson, Eddie Jefferson, Ernie Watts and Ernestine Anderson.

A chance meeting in a Seattle nightclub with Gene McDaniels (Gene had several number one hits both as a vocalist - “One Hundred Pounds Of Clay” and as a songwriter - “Feel Like Making Love”) led to a fruitful 30+ year musical collaboration and friendship that brought Ted to the NYC area. Some of the songs Gene and Ted wrote were recorded by the great jazz diva, Nancy Wilson, such as “You Know”, performed at Carnegie Hall and broadcast on the A&E channel. Les McCann and Jeanie Bryson also recorded songs penned by McDaniels and Brancato. Ted recorded with several well known jazz artists such as Ron Carter, Lewis Nash, Joey DeFrancesco, and Terri Lyne Carrington on various McDaniels produced recordings.

In the 30+ years that Ted has worked in and around NYC, he has honed his skills as an arranger, composer, performer, conductor, and accompanist. He played on recordings by Houston Person and a Roger Kellaway recording that was produced by Creed Taylor and recorded by the famous Rudy Van Gelder in his Englewood, NJ studio. He served as musical director for jazz vocalist Jeanie Bryson – touring the world with her and arranging and playing on three of her albums. Alongside Ms. Bryson, Ted worked closely with many great jazz players such as Christian McBride, Jerry Niewood, Pacquito D’Rivera and trumpeters Claudio Roditi and Wallace Roney. While Ms. Bryson’s musical director, Ted performed in Brazil, Japan, Greece, the Netherlands, and toured the United States. Other touring experience includes two USIA sponsored trips to West Africa with jazz vocalist Dee Daniels. Ted also kept his Seattle connection alive over the years, arranging and playing on two recordings by vocalist Kelly Harland, and collaborating with singer/songwriter Mark Pearson (longtime member of the Brothers Four) on numerous recording projects and live concert tours in the Pacific Northwest. Ted served as musical director of a dinner theater in New Jersey for 13 years. He arranged for, and conducted a 6 piece band and up to 10 singer/dancers while working there.

In 2008 Ted realized a life-long dream and built a recording studio. Not only has there been a steady stream of artists clamoring to use his facility, Ted also used the studio to record his first solo album entitled “The Next Step” - which was released in the fall of 2013 on the Origin label. The album featured 14 of Brancato’s compositions and the expert musicianship of legendary bassist Ron Carter, drummer Terry Silverlight and Saxophonist Matt Langley. Ted’s second solo album, entitled “Bicoastal”, will be released in March 2017 and features 12 more Brancato originals, four of which spotlight Ted’s vocals. With “Bicoastal”, Brancato has once again assembled a top-notch group of musicians including Lou Marini on saxophone, Lee Finkelstein on drums, Gregory Jones on bass, and Ben Williams on trombone.