

Artist Bio

Michael Telesmanick, multi-instrumentalist (piano, keyboard, bass, drums, guitar, vibes and percussion), composer, producer, arranger, sound designer, vocalist, and Graduate Cum Laude from the re-known Berklee College of Music in Boston, is humbly known to his colleagues and friends as simply, "T", or "Mike T", but Michael's prowess on the ivories and his immense knowledge of music and jazz history is anything but simple.

The esteemed Conductor of the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra and revered Academy Award winning American Film Composer, John Williams (Star Wars, Jaws, E.T., Jurassic Park, Schindler's list and virtually all of Steven Spielberg's films) hand-delivered Mike his degree from Berklee College of Music, along with drummer, Buddy Rich, who personally acknowledged Mike's outstanding talent as a jazz pianist. From that day forward, Mike has honored his mentors in various capacities by composing, performing and recording for the past 25 years throughout the US and abroad with his own band, as well as playing with many established award-winning artists, including the following:

- Marshall Wood (Bassist for Tony Bennett)
- Wilfred Middlebrooks (Bassist for Ella Fitzgerald)
- Larry Gales (Principal Bassist with Thelonius Monk, who also recorded with Billie Holiday)
- Jerry Manfredi (Bassist for Van Morrison & Paul McCartney)
- Juno Lewis (Percussionist for John Coltrane)
- Jack DeJohnette (Grammy Award Winning Jazz Drummer, who started his early career playing with Miles Davis and regularly performs with Grammy-Award Winning Jazz Pianist, Keith Jarrett and Bassists, Gary Peacock and Dave Holland)
- Eddie Gomez (Bassist for Bill Evans)
- Joe Lovano (Grammy Award Winning Saxophonist on Blue Note Records)
- Peter Erskine (Grammy Award Winning Drummer with Weather Report)
- Ed Shaughnessy and Doc Severinsen of Johnny Carson's Tonight Show Band
- Joe Sample (Legendary Keyboardist with The Jazz Crusaders)
- Manhattan Transfer
- Brian Setzer (Stray Cats and The Brian Setzer Orchestra)
- Mark Craney (Drummer for Jethro Tull & Jean Luc Ponty)
- Steve Smith (Drummer for Journey)
- Steve Vai (friend and Berklee alum and re-known Guitarist with Frank Zappa & White Snake)
- Bobbie Kimball (Lead Singer for Grammy-Award Winning Band, Toto)
- George Garzone (Saxophonist: The Yellowjackets, Tom Jones, Gil Evans Orchestra, & Woody Herman)
- Duke Robillard and Roomful of Blues (Grammy-nominated R & B / Blues Band)
- Tim Smith (Drummer for Poco, Phish, & Jars of Clay)
- Ronnie Kaufman (Drummer for legendary R & B Soul Singer, Charlie Wilson & The Gap Band)
- Don Preston (Keyboardist) and Bunk Gardner (Saxophonist) - both w/Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention Band

In the mid 1990's, Mike recorded his critically acclaimed CD, "*Illumination*", in Chick Corea's "*Madhatter Studios*" in Los Angeles, CA. Mike was a regular invite to sit in with jazz icons playing in the LA area at that time: drummers, Jeff Tain Watts and Willie Jones, III; pianists Brad Mehldau and Kenny Kirkland; and saxophonist, Branford Marsalis. Mike was the principal pianist performing weekly at the *World Stage* in Leimert Park, oftentimes with Billy Higgins (the most recorded drummer in Jazz history, who played with John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, Herbie Hancock, Milt Jackson, Charles Lloyd, Pat Metheny, Lee Morgan, Cedar Walton, Charlie Hayden, and Ornette Coleman). Playing regularly in Los Angeles jazz venues, *Catalina Bar & Grill*, the *Jazz Bakery*, the *Baked Potato*, *Chadney's*, *Atlas Bar & Grill*, *Rocco's*, *Jax*, *Café Cordiale*, and *Vitello's*, Mike also became Merv Griffin's favorite pianist while playing at the "late" Mr. Griffin's legendary "*Coconut Club*" in Beverly Hills. Touring many music festivals on the West Coast, in 2004, Mike's band won the *Best Jazz Fusion Artist of the Year* at the Long Beach Jazz Festival. Recently settling in South Florida, Mike plays solo piano and performs with many bands at hotels and clubs throughout the area, as he continues to travel and perform in many of the best, world-class Jazz Venues in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Seattle, Hawaii, Boston, New Orleans and New York.

Mike is currently developing a new website, while composing scores for various independent film projects. He is working on a new solo piano CD in his private recording studio and co-writing, arranging and producing a CD with singer/songwriter/performing artist, **nolia blue**.