



**Melvin Peters** is a jazz pianist, composer, arranger, educator and church organist. He started classical piano lessons at the age of six and continued throughout high school. Whilst studying towards a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Natal, he began jazz piano lessons under the tutelage of Darius Brubeck in 1983. After completing a Master of Music degree in Jazz Performance in 1989, he was appointed lecturer in Jazz Studies at the University of Durban-Westville in 1990. He taught here for ten years and during this time was awarded a scholarship to study at

Harvard University in 1998. He has performed extensively in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Melvin Peters has worked with several leading South African jazz musicians. Career highlights include performances with such jazz luminaries as Herb Ellis and Ginger Baker, as well as the opportunity to share the stage with the legendary Dave Brubeck at Harvard University in 1999. He has collaborated with Abdullah Ibrahim in the formation of the Cape Town Jazz Orchestra, for which he was appointed Music Director. He has performed and tutored regularly at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. Other major performances include collaborations at the Joy of Jazz Festival and the Hilton Festival. He has made several appearances with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra and performed in the première of Noel Stockton's "Invictus" with the Free State Symphony Orchestra.

He continues to perform regularly with the Melvin Peters Quartet. In April 2016, he undertook a national tour with his band. He is currently the jazz examiner for the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of South Africa. Melvin Peters is the organist and choirmaster at St Paul's Church, Durban. He has been featured on several recordings. At present, he serves on several boards, including UKUSA (Community Music School), UMTHOMBO (Street Children's Project) and KZNPAT (KwaZulu-Natal Performing Arts Trust). He has received several awards, including a "Special Award" from the Samro Endowment for the National Arts (for recognition of excellence as accompanist for the Samro Overseas Scholarship Competition), and the "Order of the Holy Nativity" from the Anglican Diocese of Natal (in recognition of his contribution to church music). He is currently a part-time jazz piano tutor at the Durban Music School and is also engaged in several music projects, both locally and internationally. In September 2010, he received the Living Legends Award by the Ethekewini Municipality in acknowledgement of his contribution to the musical landscape of Durban, as well as to South Africa as a whole.