

Naomi Nakanishi

Brooklyn based pianist, educator, and composer, Naomi Nakanishi invites their listener with distinguishable melodies, sonorous harmonies and unconventional phrasing. They have performed at major festivals such as the Rochester International Jazz Festival, Panama Jazz Festival and the Jazz Education Network Conference. Naomi has worked with artists such as Joe Lovano, Kris Davis, Gerald Clayton, Adam Cruz, Danilo Pérez, Tia Fuller, and Linda Oh. Naomi has also shared the stage with world renowned jazz musicians such as Miguel Zenón, Jimmy Cobb, DeeDee Bridgewater, Nat Reeves, and Tanya Darby.

As an Asian American, Naomi is an equal rights advocate implementing projects on social justice issues through original compositions and poetry. Their organization **Women Mean Business**, celebrates femme/non-binary musicians while providing performance opportunities. In 2019 Naomi was selected to participate in the **Washington Women in Jazz: Young Artist Showcase** as well as the **Women in Jazz Organization Mentorship Program** studying with Rachel Z. Hakim. They are also the recipient for the 2020 Hal Leonard Collegiate Scholarship through the Jazz Education Network. Naomi is always aiming for more inclusive, musical environments.

In addition to performance, Naomi is also passionate about music education and has served on faculty as a private piano instructor at **Merry Melody Music Academy** and **Brimmer and May School** in Boston, MA. They conducted a series of workshops on racial and gender equity/identity through the **Women of Jazz and Creative Music** organization and the Esperanza Academy in Boston. As a bandleader Naomi recently finished a multidisciplinary, collaborative project featuring five original compositions and poetry called, [*Hear Me Speak*](#). Each piece draws from their personal experiences as a queer, femme, and Asian-American musician. It is accompanied with a short film by videographer, Olivia Moon, whose work focuses on the queer community of color in Boston.

Naomi holds a Master's Degree at the Berklee Global Jazz Institute led by Grammy award winning pianist, Danilo Pérez. There she performed regularly with her trio, and various chamber ensembles. In addition she has performed in numerous classical events both as an accompanist and soloist. There is hardly a moment in Naomi's life where they aren't performing, teaching, or reflecting. They seek to inspire and continue learning from multiracial, queer coalitions, while curating more culturally rich and interactive experiences to all who listen to their music.