

*An ambassador of jazz, Naomi Nakanishi is a pianist, composer, and activist striving to cultivate an enriching, musical experience for all.*

A dynamic pianist, improviser, and composer, Naomi Nakanishi invites their listeners with distinguishable melodies, sonorous harmonies and unconventional phrasing. Their music aims to reconstruct, experiment and interact with sounds influenced by their comprehensive background in Black American Music, indie-folk tunes, and classical piano. Recent studio work includes their debut EP, *Hear Me Speak*, a multidisciplinary portrait of five original poems and compositions, each drawing from deeply personal experiences as a queer, Asian American musician. Naomi was selected to participate in the 2022 Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead Residency at the Kennedy Center and is a recent graduate of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute. 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.