

## Naomi Nakanishi

A multifaceted pianist, educator, and composer, Naomi Nakanishi is currently based in Boston, MA. Her background in classical and folk repertoire deeply influence her sound today through her ethereal and groove oriented compositions. As an activist she focuses on social justice issues through her organization, **Women Mean Business**, featuring femme/non-binary musicians. She has performed at numerous major festivals such as the Rochester International Jazz Festival and the Jazz Education Network Conference. Naomi has worked with artists such as Joe Lovano, Kris Davis, Gerald Clayton, Adam Cruz, Danilo Perez, Tia Fuller, and Linda Oh. Naomi has also shared the stage with world renowned jazz musicians such as Jeff Hamilton, Randy Brecker, 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. 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. She is also the recipient for the 2020 Hal Leonard Collegiate Scholarship through the Jazz Education Network. Naomi is always aiming for inclusive, musical environments offering a different perspective in jazz.

In addition to performance, Naomi is also passionate about music education and has participated in various outreach programs such as the *Eastman To Go* program where she prepared workshops for K-12 schools and community homes in Rochester, NY. Through a summer internship, Naomi has worked with [Alexa Tarantino](#), former Eastman graduate, at the [Rockport Jazz Workshop](#) where she assisted in piano masterclasses. At the Berklee Global Jazz Institute she recently performed a series of workshops on gender equity at the Esperanza Academy.

Naomi is currently working on a multidisciplinary, collaborative project featuring six original compositions and poetry surrounding her narrative as an Asian-American woman in jazz. It will also touch upon the disparities experienced between generations of Asian Americans and address the grim history behind World War II's Internment Camps for Japanese-Americans. *Hear Me Speak* will be Naomi's debut album as a bandleader premiering in August of 2021.

Naomi holds a BM in Jazz Performance from the Eastman School of Music, while studying with Gary Versace. There she performed regularly with her trio, Dave Rivello's New Jazz ensemble, and various chamber ensembles. In addition she has performed in numerous classical events both as an accompanist and soloist. Naomi is currently pursuing her Master's Degree at the Berklee Global Jazz Institute led by Grammy award winning pianists, Danilo Pérez.

There is hardly a moment in Naomi's life where she isn't performing or teaching. She hopes to inspire other young women to pursue a career in music and to encourage everyone to keep their hearts and minds open to the music she shares.