

Richard Nelson Hall - Pianist



Drawing from a vast and varied repertoire Richard will add class & sophistication to any room with his tasteful and evocative renditions drawn largely from the great American songbook.

Richard began classical piano lessons in England at the age of six and is a graduate of the University of Nottingham where he subsidized his higher education grants with jazz dates at the local clubs. He went on to play piano for members of the British Royal Family at the Royal Berkshire Polo Club & the Royal Thames Yacht Club. As a London-based professional he made appearances at The Ritz, The Savoy, Covent Garden and a two year run at London's Hotel Russell. From 1988 to 1990 he held a lecturing post at Chichester College where he taught jazz theory and improvisation to Performing Arts students.

Arriving in San Francisco in January 1991 Richard's career continued with nightly contracts at the renowned Fisherman's Wharf restaurant A. Sabella's then at Club 36 on Union Square. Weekly engagements have included the jazz clubs Storyville, Harry Denton's, The Black Cat, Moonshine and The Plumed Horse. Appearing with various Bay Area Jazz, Latin, and Blues ensembles he has performed at most of the live music venues in the Bay Area including The Fillmore Auditorium, The Great American Music Hall, The Masonic Auditorium (with Tony Bennett), Slim's and The Mystic Theater; in 1999 he participated in the "Blue Journey" lecture/performance series presenting the history of the blues in Universities across California; and in 2001 his trio performed on stage with Ballet California at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts presenting original choreography with his original musical compositions. In September 2004 he performed at the Russian River Jazz Festival opening for Chaka Khan, and in 2005/6 was Musical Director, Pianist and Conductor for both the "Dirty Little Secret" show (60 performances) and the Rat Pack "Tribute" show (250 performances). In July 2007 he opened the Berkeley Jazz festival at the Greek Theater, in Oct 2008 he performed at Yoshi's and in Jan 2009 he played to a sell out crowd in the Spreckels Performing Arts Center. He has worked with comedians Robin Williams, Jay Leno, Mickey Joseph & Jim Geovanni & magician Jay Alexander. In recent months, as well as numerous weddings, he has performed at shows, concerts & parties in a hundred cities across the United States.

