

John di Martino

Pianist/Composer

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John di Martino has been described by Paul Pines as a musical “shape shifter”, inhabiting three different worlds. As a straight ahead jazz pianist, he has performed and recorded with such notables as Kenny Burrell, James Moody and Eddie Gomez. Mr. di Martino is a sought after musical director and has accompanied Jon Hendricks, Diane Shuur, and the late Billy Eckstine. He is active as on the world beat scene working with Paquito D’Rivera, South African bassist Bakithi Kumalo and Giovanni Hidalgo.

John’s talent as arranger and keyboardist can be heard on a new release from Grady Tate, “*All Alone*”, on the Sony label. Mr. di Martino continues to enjoy a long association with percussionist/musicologist Bobby Sanabria. Their joint efforts include the Grammy nominated CD “*Live And In Clave*” on the Arabesque label, three instructional videos on Warner Bros. and numerous educational clinics and seminars. John is a long time member of Ray Barretto’s “*New World Spirit*”, he is featured pianist/arranger on several recordings including the Grammy nominated CD “*Contact*”. Mr. di Martino has also recorded with Freddie Cole and legendary percussionist Patato Valdez. John is featured in the March/April 2001 issue of *Piano Keyboard Magazine*.

As a teenager in his native Philadelphia, he was found most nights in Philly’s local jazz clubs where he still returns to work with veteran musician Mickey Roker. Since his student days with Lennie Tristano and Don Sebesky, John has performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall to The Peoples Republic of China.

“...one of the jazz scene’s finest, a pianist who is just as comfortable with bop as he is with Afro-Cuban rhythms and salsa...”

K. Leander Williams (Time Out New York)

“Pianist John di Martino seems to play in and out of a trance, but there is so much happening in his style, that the listener becomes mesmerized. His amazing piano had the audience roaring approval! He was particularly impressive with a touch comparable to the melodically challenging finesse of Kenny Barron.”

Phillip Elwood (San Francisco Examiner)

“I express my admiration for one of the most musically honest young musicians I know. John di Martino’s middle name should be ‘taste’, for he conveys that quality whether he is in a solo or a supportive role, both in Jazz and Latin music.”

Ray Barretto

“John is probably the most versed pianist today, in terms of sensitivity in jazz, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian music. I hear everything from Ravel, Stravinsky and Prokofiev to Bud Powell and Monk in his playing, through his own voice. Just a great player and a great person, too.”

Bobby Sanabria (Jazz Times, Nov. 2001)

“...John di Martino has always been one of my heroes, someone who truly understands both Jazz and Afro-Cuban music and he swings his ass off!”

Mark Levine (Pianist, Educator)