

Shawn McGowan

Long Bio

www.shawnmcgowanmusic.com/epk

Shawn McGowan is a multifaceted American pianist, keyboardist, and composer. Shawn's music has been described as a unique blend of jazz that's both imaginative and stimulating, yet very accessible. His 2019 debut album, *Shades*, showcases his talent for combining rich harmonies and luscious melodies with contemporary beats, creating a sound that is truly his own. Scheduled for release this year, his second album as a leader, entitled *Vista*, promises to further establish his unique musical identity. Shawn says, "I love creating new music and always strive to come up with something that's beautiful and will inspire others to be creative."

In addition to being an accomplished jazz pianist, Shawn is a skilled and versatile keyboardist who has collaborated with prominent artists across various genres. Since 2017, he has been a member of the high-energy band Party Crashers, touring extensively and captivating audiences across North America, Central America, and Europe. Shawn's impressive resume includes performances with GRAMMY-winning artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Darmon Meader of the New York Voices, and Janis Siegel of the Manhattan Transfer, as well as engagements with NEA Jazz Master Jamey Aebersold, country star Trace Adkins, rock legend Bret Michaels, and NBC's "The Voice" winner Josh Kaufman.

For the past seven years, Shawn has been a featured performer at Harry Connick Jr.'s annual Krewe of Orpheus Mardi Gras Ball in New Orleans. In 2020, he along with the Party Crashers were invited to play an opening set at Super Bowl LIV in Miami. Shawn regularly appears at premiere Las Vegas nightclubs Hakkasan, Drai's, Omnia, Club Light, Jewel, and Marquee with the Party Crashers.

Shawn's musical journey began at the age of 4, when his parents enrolled him in classical piano lessons. A promising young talent, he garnered recognition in high school placing first in numerous contests, festivals, and honor ensembles. After receiving multiple competitive offers, Shawn was recruited by Indiana University on a scholarship to study at their esteemed **Jacobs School of Music**. It was here, under the direction of NEA Jazz Master David Baker, where he honed his musical abilities studying privately with Dr. Luke Gillespie and three-time GRAMMY nominee, Wayne Wallace. Upon graduating with a B.A. in Jazz Studies and a minor in conducting, his exceptional talent was acknowledged at his final recital where he was awarded the

prestigious Performer's Certificate, a true mark of his outstanding abilities. Continuing his pursuit of musical excellence, he pursued further studies with pianist David Kane at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, earning a Master's degree in Jazz Studies.

In 2013, he clinched the first prize for Best Musical Score at the National Campus Movie Festival, a testament to his impressive skills as a composer. From 2015- 2016, Shawn served as the Associate Instructor of Jazz Piano for the Jacobs School of Music and as a piano instructor for the IU Young Pianists Program. With a passion for music education, Shawn is currently designing his own online school for aspiring jazz musicians that will be launching in 2024.

For press inquiries and bookings, contact Emma Falender at emma.a.falender@gmail.com or go to www.shawnmcgowanmusic.com/contact

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