



Henry Butler

A rich amalgam of jazz, Caribbean, classical, pop, blues, and R&B, Henry Butler's music is as excitingly eclectic as that of his New Orleans birthplace. Blinded by glaucoma at birth, he has been playing the piano since he was six years old, and arranging, composing, and performing professionally since he was twelve. Considered the premier exponent of the great New Orleans jazz and blues piano tradition, Butler's sound has been influenced by the streets (he grew up in the Calliope Projects in New Orleans, has traveled the world, lived on both coasts and in the heartland); by studying with the greats (Alvin Batiste, Sir Roland Hanna, Professor Longhair, and George Duke); by institutions (Louisiana School for the Blind, Southern University, and Michigan State University); and by his willingness to explore new boundaries and to take risks.

Book as:

*solo, trio, quartet, big band
jazz, New Orleans R&B, blues*

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Percussive in his attack, ostentatious with his technique, the picture of stubborn mischief and, not coincidentally, of New Orleans pianism...his own stylistic consommé: billowing whole-tone glissandi; furrowed, Monkish hiccups; boppish two-handed octaves; flare-ups of funk and Chopin." —Nate Chinen, New York Times

"New Orleans has produced more than its share of virtuoso pianists, dating back even before Jelly Roll Morton. Remarkably, that lineage continues today, nowhere more compellingly than in the work of Henry Butler, who achieves more with 88 keys than most mere mortals." —Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune

"A New Orleans maverick with an appetite for everything from blues to James Booker-style funk, Butler embarks on an exhilarating voyage [on Viper's Drag] to the music's roots,

incorporating elements of Jelly Roll Morton while bringing it bang up to date." —London Sunday Times

"His ability and willingness to traverse genres knowledgeably and creatively, based on a solid theoretical grounding, set Butler apart and fuel his fabulous flights of solo improvisation, where the careful listener might hear Willie "The Lion" Smith and Antonín Dvořák, say, discussing the influence of the blues in the compositions of Thelonious Monk." —Roger Hahn, Offbeat

"By far my favorite living piano player, fantastic improv instrumentals with more groove than any five full bands." —Sean Beaudoin, TNB

WHERE YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HIM

Lincoln Center
North Sea Jazz Festival
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival
Playboy Jazz Festival
Notodden Blues Festival
The Jazz Standard
Jazz Al Parque
Kennedy Center
Monterey Jazz Festival
Nice Jazz Festival
Chicago Jazz Festival
Umbria Jazz Festival

RECENT CDS

Viper's Drag
JazzFest Live 2012
PiaNOLA Live
JazzFest Live 2007

*full discography @ www.henrybutler.com

MORE ABOUT HENRY

WWOZ Piano Night Honor <https://vimeo.com/126195177>
Michigan State University Distinguished Alumnus
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J44_8xpgqzI

LISTEN TO HENRY

[Dixie Walker](#)
[Cabbage Alley](#)
[Blues for All Seasons](#)

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for more info: www.henrybutler.com

www.facebook.com/HenryButlerMusic/

*photos available upon request
