



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: TANNER TAYLOR

Instrument: Piano

Year Inducted: 2022

As a young pianist growing up in Jefferson, Tanner's interest in jazz was nurtured by the Oatts family — Jack Oatts, the “dean” of Iowa jazz education and sons Dick and Jim. According to Tanner, Jim nurtured his talents and gave him the chance to first play jazz in the Des Moines Big Band. “He’s also provided valuable moral support throughout my career” said Tanner.

It wasn't long before Tanner made a name for himself in the Des Moines area, starting at student jam sessions and then gigs with a who's who of Des Moines jazz legends. In 2001 Tanner decided to try his luck in the Twin Cities. He quickly became a first-call pianist for many local musicians and clubs such as The Dakota, Artists' Quarter, Hell's Kitchen and the Icehouse.

His ability to fit into any playing situation made Tanner a natural for jazz notables visiting the Twin Cities. His resume includes performances with Clark Terry, Slide Hampton, Lew Tabackin, David “Fathead” Newman, Bobby Shew, Delfayo Marsalis and even fellow Jefferson native and now NYC-based saxophonist Dick Oatts. In addition Tanner also made regular guest appearances with symphony/pops orchestras all over the US and Canada.

Tanner spent five years as an instructor at the Institute of Production and recording and more than 20 years as a private instructor, clinician and adjudicator. Since returning to Central Iowa several years ago, you'll find Tanner taking his rightful place behind the piano at jazz venues and events throughout the area.

