

Bastiaan Berende: The New Standard

Bastiaan Berende is a pianist and vocalist whose music serves as a bridge between the physical and the transcendent. Based in Baraboo, Wisconsin, Bastiaan has spent decades exploring the "Music of the Spheres," moving fluidly between the grit of the Dutch blues circuit, the intricate rhythms of traditional Irish music, and the sophisticated landscapes of modern jazz.

A Virtuous and Transcendent Sound

Bastiaan's piano arrangements are defined by harmonic beauty and a subtle tinge of dissonance, following intricate rhythms that feel both bright and deeply warm. His voice alternately nestles within and rises above his accompaniment with a rare versatility—shifting from raw power to lyrical sophistication.

Inspired by Herbie Hancock's concept of the "New Standard," Bastiaan challenges the boundaries of the Great American Songbook. He asks a vital question: *Why should the evolution of jazz stop in the 1950s?* By applying jazz sensibilities to the pop masterpieces of the last sixty years, Bastiaan creates a repertoire that is exotic, transformational, and deeply evocative of the 21st century.

From the Delta to the Divine

Bastiaan's journey began at age eight in the Netherlands, eventually leading him to co-found the award-winning duo Big Bo & Mr. Bas and perform across the European blues circuit. However, a parallel inward journey was unfolding. His time at the Endeavor Academy, dedicated to the study of *A Course in Miracles*, fundamentally shifted his approach to sound. It was here that he experienced the "music of the spheres"—harmonies streaming in from beyond the physical instruments—reinforcing his belief that music is a universal language meant to uplift the human spirit.

Music as a Sacred Space

Whether he is performing original compositions or fresh arrangements of Jazz Standards or Pop Classics, Bastiaan's goal is to shift the "sleepy mind" away from daily routine into a dedicated sacred space. He views every performance as an opportunity for a unified, shared experience of beauty, connection, and grace.

Today, Bastiaan continues to refine his craft through the Open Studio community and lives in Baraboo with his wife, Cecile, their dog, Soul, and their four cats. He remains a student of the light, believing that one open-minded listener is all it takes to lift a melody toward reality. "Bastiaan's music isn't categorizable. It is a new art form. Music + energy + transformation." >
— Oraea Varis, Author & Musician