



B I O G R A P H Y

A distinctive trait of internationally recognized jazz pianist Kevin Harris is his desire to constantly grow, evolve, improve, and advance. His interest to **interweave traditional and contemporary music styles, visual arts, electronic media, science, and language**, is what distinguishes his music and what renders his performances unique experiences, meant to activate the audience's senses and personal curiosity.

"Participation," Harris says, *"is what keeps our souls alive."* As a leader, Harris has released six albums. Both live and recorded performances reflect Harris's determination to capture his audience through explorative interactions that Terri Lyne Carrington describes as **"an exciting commitment to quality."**

Harris' music education has its foundation in the degrees he has received, but equally importantly in Black Gospel and Afro-Caribbean styles of music. He possesses the **unique ability to compose complex, uplifting, tempestuous, and deeply stimulating notes**.

One of the captivating elements of his ensembles, **from duet to orchestra setting**, is the level of comfort and understanding they have with one another. **Harris is known for his diving into soulfully expressive conversations and playful exchanges of ideas** with his musicians, while always providing the space to improvise in the moment.

Fred Hersch talks of Harris as one who **"plays and writes with flair and real soul"** and DownBeat Magazine writes that *"Harris' compositions deal with themes of strength, love, courage, and self-awareness. It's a heavy task he's set up for himself, and he meets the challenge gracefully."*

Harris' most innovative project as a composer are: *"Resonance: A Contemporary Symphonic Reflection Through the Courageous Lens of Steve Biko"*, *"Roots, Water and Sunlight: A Contemporary Octet Expedition through the Expressions of James Baldwin"*, and *"Pulse"*, a compelling through-composed chamber work combining improvised and fully notated music. **As a leader**, he has released six albums and, in December 2024 he has released his latest, **"EMBERS."** One review of EMBERS quotes: *"Comparing Harris' writing to that of Charles Mingus in the early '60s and Herbie Hancock in the late '60s is not faint praise. He stands on the shoulders of these masters, adds a singular personal voice, and has recruited strongly individualistic players to give his music definitive interpretation."*

Harris is part of the exclusive YAMAHA's roster of Jazz piano artists. Among his most notable collaborations are Terri Lyne Carrington, Dayna Stephens, Ralph Peterson, Ameen Saleem, Greg Hutchinson, Greg Osby, Jerry Bergonzi, George Garzone, Curtis Lundy, Caroline Davis, Bill Pierce, Francisco Mela, Avishai Cohen, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ben Street, Jason Palmer, Rudy Royston, Frank Lacey, Etienne Charles, Eric McPherson, and Sheryl Bailey.

