

Vijay Iyer

One paragraph biography

Described in the *The Village Voice* as "the most commanding pianist and composer to emerge in recent years," **VIJAY IYER** was named #1 Rising Star Jazz Artist and #1 Rising Star Composer by the Downbeat International Critics Poll for both 2006 and 2007. His twelve highly acclaimed albums include *Reimagining* (2005) and *Tragicomic* (2008) with his quartet; *Simulated Progress* (2005) and *Orbis Tertius* (2008) with the trio Fieldwork; *Raw Materials* (2006) in duo with saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa; and *In What Language?* (2004) and *Still Life with Commentator* (2007), his large-scale works with poet-performer Mike Ladd. In his newest ensemble, "Tirtha," Vijay joins forces with South Indian guitar virtuoso Prasanna and young tabla star Nitin Mitta. Vijay performs constantly around the world at international festivals and concert venues, and he has collaborated with artists such as Steve Coleman, Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Amiri Baraka, Butch Morris, Ethel, dead prez, Karsh Kale, George Lewis, DJ Spooky, John Zorn, Dennis Russell Davies, and the American Composers Orchestra. He received the 2003 CalArts Alpert Award in the Arts, the 2006 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and project grants from the Rockefeller Foundation MAP Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts, Chamber Music America, Creative Capital, American Composers Forum, Meet the Composer, Arts International, and The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. He is a faculty member at New York University, New School University, and the School for Improvisational Music, and has published articles in *Music Perception*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Current Musicology*, *Uptown Conversation: The New Jazz Studies*, and *Sound Unbound*.

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