

Matt Cooper – piano - earned his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master's degrees at the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati, and his Bachelor of Music summa cum laude from the University of Oregon. Active as a jazz as well as classical pianist, he is a frequent performer, adjudicator and clinician. He won third place prizes in the 1988 Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition and the 1988 Great American Jazz Piano Competition. As a jazz pianist, he has toured with Woody Herman's Young Thundering Herd and performed with Eddie Harris, Clark Terry, and many others. He has appeared on the Piano Duet Festival-by-the Sea, the Elsinore Theater Recital Series, Newport Coffee Concerts, Wallowa Lake Chamber Music Festival, Walla Walla Symphony Chamber Series, Musica Camerata (Richland, Washington), in recitals at Washington State University, and the Oregon Music Teachers Association State Convention, as well as in concerts in the Russian Far East. He has also appeared as soloist with the Oregon East Symphony, the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra, and the Russian chamber orchestra Gloria. He performs regularly with the Columbia Trio, and his piano duet performances with pianist Beth Tomassetti have been heard on Northwest Public Radio, on two concert tours throughout Oregon, and on compact disc.

He has adjudicated many festivals and competitions including the MTNA Performance Competitions in Washington and Montana; Washington MTA Young Artists Masters Series; and many Oregon MTA festivals. He is a former faculty member of the Oregon Summer Music Institute, Central State University (Ohio), Northern Kentucky University, and the CCM Preparatory Department, and is Immediate Past President of Oregon Music Teachers Association. He has been on the faculty at Eastern since 1991. His students have won awards, including the OMTA Composition Celebration and the Outstanding College Pianist at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. He teaches piano, jazz studies, and music theory, and directs the Eastern Jazz Ensemble.