

Bio

Eric Charles McGee

I recently celebrated a milestone in my life: teaching piano for 25 years. In this lifetime, doing anything for 25 years is quite an accomplishment. I believe parents play a defining part in all personal achievements. My mother, who is a fine pianist in her own right, introduced me to the piano at the age of 4. I can still remember listening to my mother play the piano and thinking that I would one day be able to play like that. All of my intense education and training studying the piano, at Howard University, as well as Paris, France, have led me to where I am today. Over the years as students have changed, and as I have learned more about teaching, I have been able to adjust my way of teaching to be able to connect with new generations. In the last 25 years, I believe I have touched the lives of hundreds of students—both children and adults—and feel very blessed to have done so. I hope to continue on my journey as long as destiny calls. Beyond my teaching, my own artistic achievements have included forming ECM Productions, which produces concerts that combine jazz and classical music together. One such concert took place at the Kennedy Center. One CD recording, *Dreams*, embodying that same style of music, was produced by ECM Productions as well. I have also done two concerts in Paris, one solo in classical piano and one jazz concert, leading a quintet. I have played with several leading jazz artists, including: alto saxophonist, Gary Bartz and local legendary saxophonist, Buck Hill. My ultimate dream however, is to see *Play the Music Softly* performed for live audiences all over the world. My deepest hope is to relish forever the joy I have received from teaching, performing and composing for the piano.