

Maggie Lai

Jazz Pianist, Music Director, Photographer



1. The Pitch

Maggie Lai is a dynamic jazz pianist, music director, and researcher dedicated to bridging the gap between classic narrative storytelling and modern production. Through nuanced harmonic sensibility and cutting-edge production techniques, she brings a profound sense of depth and emotional resonance to both the theatrical stage and the jazz bandstand.

2. Biographies

Full Biography (For Website/Brochures)

Maggie Lai is a multifaceted artist deeply engaged in jazz performance, theatrical music direction, and music cognition research. Currently completing her senior year as a Jazz Piano major at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), she is rapidly establishing herself as an innovative voice within the industry.

Her musical journey began with rigorous classical piano training, providing a sturdy foundation for her eventual transition into the spontaneous, communicative world of jazz. Deeply influenced by masters like Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett, she approaches the keyboard as a complex narrative vehicle rather than merely an instrument. This narrative focus was sharply honed during her time as a stage management assistant for the 2023 China tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Working behind the scenes of a major international production revealed the intricate machinery of musical theatre and inspired her to merge her jazz improvisational skills with theatrical music direction.

Beyond performance, Maggie is a passionate scholar of music cognition and neuroscience. She is currently participating in empirical research on "Musical Awe" and is preparing to enter the MSc Music, Mind and Brain program at Goldsmiths, University of London. This interdisciplinary background allows her to scientifically analyze how sound affects human emotion, profoundly enriching the emotional depth of her musical arrangements and direction.

Short Biography (For Programs/Social Media)

Maggie Lai is a jazz pianist and music director based at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) and Shenzhen. By blending classical rigor, jazz improvisation, and a deep understanding of Broadway musical theatre, she is dedicated to creating narrative-driven sonic landscapes. Having previously worked on the China tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, Maggie is currently focused on the interdisciplinary fusion of music cognition and the performing arts.

3. Core Services & Capabilities

- **Freelance Jazz Musician:** Providing sophisticated harmonic sensibility and improvisational skill for live performances and studio sessions.
- **Theatre Music Direction & Arranging:** Offering expert conducting, orchestration, and accompaniment for theatrical productions, specializing in integrating modern production techniques with traditional theatre.
- **Freelance Photography:** Capturing raw human emotion and cinematic storytelling through professional portraiture and event photography.

4. Selected Credits & Projects

- **Graduation Recital (2026):** Premiered the original composition "Where Am I?", showcasing the integration of jazz piano with a 5-piece orchestral arrangement.
- ***The Phantom of the Opera* China Tour (2023):** Served as Stage Management Assistant.

5. Media Assets

- **NetEase Music:** KRJMAGGIE
https://y.music.163.com/m/user?id=599223064&dlt=0846&app_version=9.4.95
- **YOUTUBE:** @Maggielai2003



6. Education

- **University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM):** B.M. Jazz Piano (Class of 2026). Minor in Commercial Music Production, Entrepreneurship, and Fashion Studies.
- **Goldsmiths, University of London: MSc Music, Mind and Brain (Incoming 2027).**

7. Contact Information

- **Website:** maggielaiprofessional.com
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