

## Tara Buzash ~ Program Biography

Since her stunning May performance at Washington, DC's Kennedy Center, jazz pianist Tara Buzash has caught the eyes and ears of the global jazz community. Praised by Toshiko Akiyoshi as "fantastic" and by Grammy-nominated composer Laurie Altman as "ingenious," Buzash is now focused on intimate solo concerts and inventive composing. She was one of eight young female jazz pianists from around the world chosen for the Kennedy Center's 2011 Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Emerging Artist Workshop. Buzash is currently learning under Stanley Cowell at Rutgers University, where she is a Master's student in Jazz Piano Performance and a Pee Wee Russell Jazz Scholarship winner. She has also studied with Kenny Barron, Charles Tolliver, Conrad Herwig, Bill O'Connell, Ralph Peterson Jr., Connie Crothers, Laurie Altman, Bevan Manson, and John Harmon. Buzash is a Watchfire Music Composer and the 2012 Grand Prize Winner of the New Jersey Arts Collective's student music composition contest.