

Short Biography

Richard D. Johnson www.rjjazz.com

Richard D. Johnson is a jazz pianist, educator, composer, cultural ambassador, and innovation leader whose work connects music, education, artificial intelligence, and global engagement. Born in Pittsburgh and rooted in the African American jazz tradition, he has performed with many of the world's leading artists, including Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Russell Malone, and Stevie Wonder. A Yamaha-endorsed artist, Johnson has performed in more than 92 countries and has served as a U.S. State Department Musical Ambassador.

Johnson is an Associate Professor of Jazz Piano at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where he develops programs that combine creativity, leadership, public engagement, and interdisciplinary learning. He is the founder of Let's Build Together, an initiative connecting jazz, science, engineering, community learning, and creative problem-solving. His current work also explores artificial intelligence in education, helping organizations use AI to support creativity, innovation, communication, curriculum design, and employment growth. Johnson is the creator of The Jazz Architect podcast and continues to build bridges between tradition, technology, and the future of learning.