

# Richard Drexler

POB 950795 • Lake Mary FL 32795-0795  
Phone: 727.365.4581 • E-Mail: [Richard.Drexler@ucf.edu](mailto:Richard.Drexler@ucf.edu), lobsterich@gmail.com

## Profession

Musician (piano, keyboards, bass violin, voice, violin, viola, 'cello, percussion), teacher, composer, arranger, recording producer, music contractor

## Education

Master of Music (Composition) UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, Orlando FL – 2013  
Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, Bloomington IL  
– 1977 *Cum Laude*  
Cross Cultural Arts Studies GREAT LAKES COLLEGE ASSOCIATION, New York NY – 1976:  
Apprentice to David Horowitz, Jackson MacLow and Charles Morrow  
Diploma in Bible Studies RHEMA BIBLE TRAINING CENTER, Broken Arrow OK – 1980  
*Summa Cum Laude*

## Teaching Experience

- University of Central Florida, Orlando FL – Full time instructor in Jazz Studies 2016-present
- University of Central Florida, Orlando FL – Adjunct instructor in Jazz Studies 2005-2016
- Valencia College (East Campus), Orlando FL – Adjunct jazz instructor 2013-present
- Private instructor, central FL – Teacher of piano, acoustic bass, improvisation, composition, arranging and jazz harmonic theory 1989-present
- Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra Jazz Ensemble – Director 2021-2023
- Players School of Music, Clearwater FL – Jazz piano faculty 2003-2005
- Numerous universities in Europe, South America, and USA – Guest clinician 1983-present
- Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Camps – Jazz faculty, bassist 1979, 1980, 1981

**Publication**

- Richard Drexler & Dr. Herb Silverstein: “Jazz Harmony & Improvisation – Scores & Recordings of Original Tunes” – Trafferd Publishing, ISBN #978-1-4251-3608-6

**Recording Experience as Bassist, Pianist, Producer and Composer/Arranger**

**Selected Discography**

- Billy Cobham: “Drum ‘n’ Voice, Vol. 5” – Nicolosi, 2023
- The Jazz Professors: “Blues and Cubes” – Flying Horse, 2022
- The Flying Horse Big Band: “Florida Rays” – Flying Horse, 2020
- Jeff Rupert w/George Garzone: “The Ripple” – Rupe Media, 2020
- The Flying Horse Big Band: “Good News” – Flying Horse, 2019
- The Flying Horse Big Band: “The Bat Swings” – Flying Horse, 2018
- Jeff Rupert/Richard Drexler duo: “R & D” – Rupe Media, 2018
- The Flying Horse Big Band: “Big Man on Campus” – Flying Horse, 2017
- Jeff Rupert w/Veronica Swift: “Let’s Sail Away” – Rupe Media, 2017
- Gerald Stockton: “A New Dawn” – Stockton, 2017
- Jeff Rupert/Richard Drexler duo: “Imagination” – Rupe Media, 2016
- Novecento & Dominic Miller: “Surrender” – Nicolosi, 2016
- The Jazz Professors: “En Plein Air” – Flying Horse, 2015
- The Flying Horse Big Band: “Into the Mystic” – Flying Horse, 2015
- Dr. Herb Silverstein: “Younger Next Year” – Silver Tunes, 2015
- Jeff Berlin Trio: “Low Standards” – Random Act, 2013
- Dr. Herb Silverstein: “Monday Morning” – Silver Tunes, 2013
- The Jazz Professors: “Do That Again” – Flying Horse, 2012
- Per Danielsson: “Time Will Tell” – Random Act, 2011
- The Jazz Professors: “Live from the UCF/Orlando Jazz Festival” – Flying Horse, 2010
- Jeff Berlin Trio: “High Standards” – MAJ, 2009
- Jeff Lashway: “Reunion” – Random Act, 2009
- Jeff Rupert: “From Memphis to Mobile” – Random Act, 2009
- MMC Chamber Players: “Perspectives II” – MMC, 2008

- Jeff Berlin: “Aneurhythms” – MAJ, 2005
- George Carroll: “Trilogy” – Sarasota Sunsets, 2005
- Richard Drexler Trio: “My One and Only Love” – AppleJazz, 2005
- Dr. Herb Silverstein: “Beach Walker” – Ear Research, 2005
- Richie Zellon: “Son de las Americas” – Song-o-saurus, 2005
- George Carroll: “I Hear Music” – Hope Harbor, 2004
- Richard Drexler: “Señor Juan Brahms” – Song-o-saurus, 2004
- Richie Zellon: “An Evening of South American Jazz” – Song-o-saurus, 2004
- Richie Zellon: “The Afro-Peruvian Sessions” – Song-o-saurus, 2004
- Jeff Berlin: “Lumpy Jazz” – MAJ, 2003
- George Carroll: “A Song for You” – Sarasota Sunsets, 2003
- Brienn Perry & the Woody Herman Orchestra: “Live at Fitzgerald’s” – Big Head, 2003
- Oscar Stagnaro: “Mariela’s Dream” – Song-o-saurus, 2003
- Larry Camp: “Camp Fire” – LCR, 2002
- Dick Hyman: “The Best of All Possible Worlds” – Brokensha, 2002
- Dan McMillion Jazz Orchestra: “Up Your Brass” – Seabreeze, 2002
- Jeff Rupert: “Jeff Rupert” – Silica, 2002
- Jeff Berlin: “In Harmony’s Way” – MAJ, 2001
- Mark Gould: “The Unsuspecting Moment” – Efficacy, 2001
- Dan McMillion Jazz Orchestra: “Got the Spirit” – Seabreeze, 2001
- Dr. Herb Silverstein: “Fridays with Maury...Just Because” – Ear Research, 2001
- Lorraine Feather: “New York City Drag” – Rhombus, 2000
- George Carroll: “Life is Good” – Sarasota Sunsets, 1999
- Janny Grein: “Keys of the Kingdom” – Mighty Wind, 1999
- John Allred: “Focused” – AppleJazz, 1998
- Richie Zellon: “Metal Caribe” – Song-o-saurus, 1998

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- Oscar Feldman: “El Angel” – Song-o-saurus, 1998
- Maria Farinha: “Planeta Banana” – Song-o-saurus, 1998
- Laura Valle: “Luzes Da Cidade (City Lights)” – Song-o-saurus, 1998
- Nat Adderley et al: “Monk in the Sun” – Solar Jazz/Blue Heart, 1996
- Eddie Marshall: “Cookin’ For You” – Song-o-saurus, 1996
- Common Ground: “Jazz South Sampler” – Southern Arts Federation, 1993
- Saigon Kick: “Water” – Atlantic, 1993
- Janny Grein: “Spiritual Freedom” – Mighty Wind, 1991
- Richard Drexler: “The Tulsa Concerts: ‘Carefree –Vol. 1’, ‘Heart Communion, Vol. 2’” – Castle, 1984
- Richard Drexler/Bob Dantoni: “His Romance” – House of Kings, 1981
- Richard Drexler: “Flaming Spirit” – Claremont, 1978
- Upryzing: “Conversion by Fire” – Hawk, 1978
- Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir: “Music for Voices and Instruments” – IWU, 1975

The above recordings received national attention, distribution and/or significant radio air play.  
The complete discography is approximately two hundred recordings.

### Recordings for Film as an Instrumentalist

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|---|------|
| • <i>The Secret Lives of Dentists</i> – Directed by Alan Rudolph; music by Gary DeMichele | 2002 |
| • <i>Off the Map</i> – Directed by Campbell Scott; music by Gary DeMichele                | 2002 |
| • <i>Samantha</i> – Directed by Robert Dunham; music by George Carroll                    | 2000 |

### Production and Studio Experience

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|--|-----------|
| • Dr. Herb Silverstein, Sarasota FL – Producer, arranger and bassist on several CD projects  | 1993-1996 |
| • Path of Palms Studios, Brandon FL and other studios – Composer, arranger and performer of music for various video productions  | 1987-1993 |
| • <i>The Love Beasts</i> and <i>The Mother of Passion</i> by Robert Shure – Improvised incidental piano music for radio plays broadcast on NPR and BBC, and released on CD | 1987-1989 |

## Compositions Published and/or Recorded

- *Simple Song*, co-written with Howard “Rusty” Edwards – published by Augsburg Fortress
- *Flaming Spirit* for clarinet, piano & strings recorded by Richard Stoltzman, Richard Drexler and the MMC Chamber Players on the CD “Perspectives II”, MMC 2175 (released 2008)

Over twenty original compositions are included on the recordings in the selected discography above.

## Selected International Performances with Jeff Berlin

- The travels of the Jeff Berlin band entailed several densely booked two- to three-week tours overseas per year. The following is a typical itinerary. Other countries involved were Austria, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Chile and Argentina, plus Puerto Rico.
- 2/2/04 – Rome, Italy – La Palma
- 2/3/04 – Lamezia, Italy – Teatro Umberto
- 2/4/04 – Messina, Italy – Annibale
- 2/5/04 – Siracusa, Italy – Vazques
- 2/6/04 – Catania, Italy – ABC
- 2/8/04 – Trapani, Italy – Sala Dell Trapani
- 2/10/04 – Milan, Italy – Scimmie
- 2/11/04 – Parma, Italy – Teatro Ribera
- 2/12/04 – Dudelange, Luxembourg – Town Hall
- 2/13/04 – Conegliano, Italy

## Performance Experience as Bassist, Pianist, Producer and Composer/Arranger

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|--|--------------|
| • Freelance jazz musician, central FL  | 1985-present |
| • Woody Herman Orchestra – periodic tours of USA (piano)   | 1997-present |
| • Jeff Berlin Trio – periodic tours of Europe, South America & USA                                   | 2000-2012    |
| • John Allred Quintet – two tours of Switzerland (piano)   | 2000, 2002   |
| • Traveling Solo Evangelistic Music/Teaching Ministry – USA (26 states), Costa Rica, Russia, Belarus | 1980-1985    |
| • Freelance jazz musician, Chicago IL  | 1977-1979    |
| • Illinois State University, Normal IL – Staff pianist, Dance Dept.                                  | 1978-1979    |

**Additional Recordings and Performances**

- Richard is on commercially available recordings, mostly as a fellow sideman, with Greg Abate, Alex Acuña, Ernie Adams, John Allred, Brian Auger, Marta Aznavoorian, Gato Barbieri, Jay Beckenstein, Bob Berg, Chuck Berghofer, Jerry Bergonzi, Jeff Berlin, Jack Brokensha, Brian Bromberg, Donald Brown, Gary Burton, Jason Carder, Dave Carpenter, Terri Lynn Carrington, George Carroll, Stanley Clarke, Billy Cobham, Anthony Cole, Vinnie Colaiuta, Mike Cunningham, Paquito d’Rivera, Art Davis, Gary deMichele, Ryan Devlin, Al Di Meola, Bruce Ditmas, Jerry Dodgion, Kenny Drew Jr., Pedro Eustache, Dominick Farinacci, Lorraine Feather, Oscar Feldman, Russell Ferrante, Manfredo Fest, Clare Fischer, the Florida Orchestra, David Friesen, Tom Garling, Frank Glover, Danny Gottlieb, Mark Gould, Tom Harrell, the Woody Herman Orchestra, Ian Hobson, Dick Hyman, John Jenkins, Randy Johnston, Hank Jones, Mike Lang, Steve LaSpina, Dave Liebman, Rob Lockhart, the Guy Lombardo Orchestra, Paul McKee, the Dan McMillion Jazz Orchestra, Chip McNeill, Andy Middleton, Bob Mintzer, the MMC Chamber Players, Marty Morell, Michael Philip Mossman, Larry Novak, the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Infinidad, Gumbi Ortiz, Brienn Perry, Frank Puzzullo, Dick Reynolds, Steve Rodby, Claudio Roditi, Mario Rodriguez, Joel Rosenblatt, Otmaro Ruiz, Jeff Rupert, Saigon Kick, Dave Samuels, Carlos Santana, Howie Shear, Kelly Sill, Edward Simon, Claudio Slon, Barry Smith, Mike Smith, Kenny Soderblom, Joel Spencer, Oscar Stagnaro, Ramon Stagnaro, Marvin Stamm, Mike Stern, Grant Stewart, Richard Stoltzman, John Stowell, Ira Sullivan, Toots Thielemann, Bobby Vinton, Narada Michael Walden, Dave Weckl, Paul Wertico, Frank Wess, Jack Wilkins (sax), Buster Williams, Larry Williams, Rachel Z and Richie Zelon.
- Richard has performed live with John Abercrombie, Howard Alden, Mousey Alexander, Harry Allen, Cliff Almond, Jorge Amorim, David Amram, Peter Appleyard, Sam Arlen, Rich Baratta, George Benson, Chuck Bergeron, Seamus Blake, Joshua Breakstone, Randy Brecker, Ron Bridgewater, Nick Brignola, Sam Brown, Al Caiola, Ed Calle, John Campbell, Sara Caswell, Matt Catingub, Bill Charlap, Jeff and John Clayton, Al Cohn, Richie Cole, Buster Cooper, Chick Corea, Sylvia Cuenca, Joe Daly, Eric Darius, Barrett Deems, Buddy deFranco, Lew del Gatto, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Steve Eisen, William Evans, John Fedchock, Greg Fishman, Carl Fontana, Frank Foster, Brandon Goldberg, John Goldsby, Eddie Gomez, Bunky Green, Al Grey, Steve Grossman, Guisando Caliente, Bob Haggart, Lin Halliday, Jeff Hamilton, Lionel Hampton, Joel Heleny, Scott Henderson, Giovanni Hidalgo, Art Hoyle, Vijay Iyer, Illinois Jacquet, Ingrid Jensen, Jerry Jerome, Rusty Jones, Ryo Kawasaki, Warren Kime, Joe LaBarbera, John Lamb, John LaPorta, Jennifer Leitham, Walt Levinsky, Jeff Linsky, Joe LoDuca, Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Jay McShann, Paul Metzke, Dan Miller, Othello Molineaux, the Vaughan Monroe Orchestra, Eddie Monteiro, the Art Mooney Orchestra, Steve Moretti, James Morrison, Alphonse Mouzon, Najee, Jose Luis do Nascimento, the New Dorsey Orchestra, Tommy Newsom, Mike Nock, Larry Novak, Adam Nussbaum, Nathen Page, Ken Peplowski, Gene Perla, Bill Pierce, Ted Piltzecker, Chris Potter, Tito Puente, Barry Ries, Sam Rivers, Bobby Rosengarden, Arturo Sandoval, Don Scaletta, Lynn Seaton, Ralph Sharon, Ed Shaughnessy, Jim Snidero, Lew Soloff, Danny Stiles, Byron Stripling, Dick Sudhalter, Richard Sussman, Frank Tiberi, Cy Touff, Ross Traut, Hiromi Uehara, Miroslav Vitous, Randy Waldman, Ernie Watts, Jack Wilkins (guitar), John Williams, Chihiro Yamanaka and Glenn Zottola.

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- Singers Richard has worked with include Anna Maria Alberghetti, Mose Allison, Michael Amante, Michelle Amato, Michael Andrew, Susan Anton, Tony Bennett, George Benson, Carmen Bradford, Stephanie Browning, Chris Calloway, Diahann Carroll, George Carroll, Chicago Rose, Linda Cole, Vic Damone, Dee Daniels, Dena DeRose, Donovan, Bob Dorough, Fabian, Lorraine Feather, Connie Francis, Giacomo Gates, Eydie Gormé, Amy Grant, Joel Grey, Connie Haines, Al Jarreau, Jack Jones, Darlene Koldenhoven, Frankie Laine, Carol Lawrence, Steve Lawrence, Barbara Lea, Steve Lippia, Ralph Loveday, Kevin Mahogany, Al Martino, Idina Menzel, Gayle Moran, Landau Eugene Murphy Jr., Mark Murphy, Freda Payne, Brienn Perry, Bernadette Peters, Richard Roberts, Bobby Rydell, Dave Seabaugh, Carol Sloane, Bob Stewart, Byron Stripling, Veronica Swift, Breana Thomas, Mel Tormé, Mark Tremonti, Bobby Vinton, Roseanna Vitro, Charenee Wade, Scott Whitfield, Mark Wills and Lusine Yeghiazaryan.
- Christian artists Richard has ministered with include Alex Acuña, Mike Deasy, Phil Driscoll, Howard “Rusty” Edwards, Faith’s Creation, Amy Grant, Janny Grein, David Ingles, Living Sound, Living Waters Liquid Praise, Bill McKenzie, Don Moen, Bill Murk, Myrrh, the Oral Roberts University Jazz Ensemble, Rick Powell, Rhema Singers & Brass, Richard Roberts, Howard Smith, Michael W. Smith, the Spurrflows, the Sounds of Rhema and Clinton Utterbach.
- Traveling Broadway companies Richard has played with include A Chorus Line, An Irving Berlin Christmas, Jesus Christ Superstar, Legally Blonde, Spamalot, Sweet Charity, Wicked and Will Rogers Follies.
- Shows and concerts Richard has performed in include the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra, Keith Carradine, Matt Catingub, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Cheap Trick, the Coasters, the Diamonds, Myron Floren, the Florida Orchestra, the Florida West Coast Symphony, the Four Aces, the Four Freshmen, the Four Lads, Frank Gorshen, Skitch Henderson, Bob Hope, Irish Tenors, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Erich Kunzel, the Guy Lombardo Orchestra, the Led Zeppelin Tribute Orchestra, Jay Leno, Jerry Lewis, Little Anthony & the Imperials, Rich Little, Mannheim Steamroller, the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, Bob Newhart, the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Regis Philbin, the Pied Pipers, Joe Piscopo, Steven Reineke, the Richey Orchestra, Molly Ringwald, Joan Rivers, the Rockettes, the Salem Festival Orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Jeff Tyzik, the UCF-Orlando Symphony Orchestra, Jerry van Dyke, the Video Games Live Orchestra and the Lawrence Welk All-Stars.

## Residencies

- The Jazz Cellar, Tampa FL – Pianist in resident ten-person ensemble 1993-1996
- The Hurricane Restaurant, St. Petersburg FL – Pianist in house jazz quartet 1987-1993
- Walt Disney World and EPCOT, Lake Buena Vista FL – Staff musician on electric bass and keyboards 1987-1989

### Recognition

- Richard is one of just over a hundred musicians profiled in “The New Face of Jazz” by Cicily Janus (Billboard/Random House, ISBN #978-0-8230-0065-4) with forewords by Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Miller, and Sonny Rollins. He has performed with forty-five of the others featured in the book.

### References

- Jeff Berlin, Bassist/composer/bandleader, Nashville TN – 727.687.5169, [lumpyjazz@yahoo.com](mailto:lumpyjazz@yahoo.com)
- Lyman A. Brodie, Executive Associate Dean, College of Arts & Humanities, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL – 407.823.2251, [Lyman.Brodie@ucf.edu](mailto:Lyman.Brodie@ucf.edu)
- Keith Koons, Assistant Music Chair, University of Central Florida, Orlando FL – 407.823.4077, [Keith.Koons@ucf.edu](mailto:Keith.Koons@ucf.edu)
- Dennis Marks, Associate Professor of Jazz Studies - Applied Bass & Jazz Ensemble II Director, University of North Florida, Jacksonville FL – 904.620.3843, [dmarks@unf.edu](mailto:dmarks@unf.edu)
- Charles “Chip” McNeill, Chair of Jazz Division, School of Music, University of Illinois, Urbana IL – 217.333.9703, [chipmc@illinois.edu](mailto:chipmc@illinois.edu)
- Glenn Wilson, Former Director of Jazz Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington IL – 309.310.5468, [gwilson@iwu.edu](mailto:gwilson@iwu.edu)