



Photo: Julia Crosara

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*Francesco, your music is wonderful – always has been. Play what you love and saturate the world with it.*

**Chick Corea**

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*A pianist who originally hails from Italy, Crosara is well-versed in bop lore, and his delicate flow might indicate a debt to Bill Evans.*

**Down Beat Magazine**

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### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Francesco Crosara is a Seattle area based Italian jazz pianist, composer and educator routinely performing in a variety of formations. Crosara's original music melds an impressive mix of jazz improvisation, a romantic vein from his classical Conservatory training in Rome, bouncy lyrical expression along with strong Latin influences. His main jazz piano influences are Chick Corea, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, and Herbie Hancock.

Crosara stands among the European-bred jazz greats, performing over the years with the likes of Lionel Hampton, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Hargrove, Richie Cole, Bobby Shew, Ira Sullivan, Don Menza, Von Freeman, John Heard, Gabe Baltazar, Mayuto Correa, Bruce Forman, Barbara Morrison, Earl Palmer, Lilian Terry, and more. His recordings have featured a multicultural and international array of musicians. He has performed at festivals and venues across the USA, Japan, Canada, Mexico, France, Spain, and Italy.

Since 2017, the Pacific Northwest can claim Crosara's talents, too, as he's demonstrated an eagerness to contribute to the local scene. Francesco was selected to perform at the *2021 Earshot Jazz Festival* in Seattle and has been featured two years in a row in the trend-setting *Earshot Jazz: The Second Century* series for his bold and innovative music composition and video editing work. Equally adept with acoustic and electric jazz concepts, Crosara routinely headlines trios and quartets with the area top musicians.

Francesco has produced 6 international jazz albums over the last three decades ranging from straight-ahead to fusion and Latin. Featured guest artists include Von Freeman, Lilian Terry, Dave Marr, Rusty Jones, Paulinho Garcia, Dean Taba, Noel Okimoto, Yasushi Gonjo, Larry Marshall, Miles Jackson, Eric Kurtz, and more. His 2000 album "*Colors*" received 4 stars from Down Beat magazine.

Crosara also serves as the Education chair on the Board of Directors of the Music Discovery Center (MDC), a non-profit organization based in Bremerton, WA, dedicated to creating an inclusive space for community members to experience, explore, and contribute to the world of music through education, performance, and mentorship.



Photo: Lisa Hagen-Glynn

## MUSIC EDUCATION AND INFLUENCES

Born in Milan and raised in Rome, Italy, Francesco was exposed to jazz and classical music at an early age. His mother, [Lilian Terry](#), one of Europe's foremost jazz singers for four decades, was also a TV producer, radio broadcaster, and educator. Lilian organized concerts/master classes in Italy and conducted interviews for RAI with some of the most respected figures in American jazz, who also became close friends. Some of them were highly influential on Francesco's artistic development through the years, especially Max Roach, Abbey Lincoln, Chick Corea, Eumir Deodato, and Dizzy Gillespie. In the early eighties, Lilian recorded two album projects, with Dizzy Gillespie, and with Tommy Flanagan, respectively, and co-founded the *Dizzy Gillespie Popular School of Music* in Bassano, Italy. Lilian's memoirs, "[Dizzy, Duke, Brother Ray, and Friends](#)", (2017-University of Illinois Press) received a highly positive review from DownBeat magazine and others.

In the seventies, Francesco studied Classical Piano, Music Theory & Composition at the Conservatory of Music Santa Cecilia in Rome. Given the absence of a jazz curriculum, after 3 years Francesco transferred to the Conservatory of Frosinone to specialize in Jazz Harmony, Composition and Improvisation under the guidance of maestro Gerardo Iacoucci.

In 1981 he attended USC in Los Angeles where he became a permanent member of the USC jazz big band through his college years. Main music influences were family friends Dizzy Gillespie and Chick Corea.

**Piano style influences:** Chick Corea, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, Herbie Hancock, Keith Jarrett, Oscar Peterson, McCoy Tyner, Joe Zawinul.

**Other jazz influences:** Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Weather Report, Return To Forever, John McLaughlin, Pat Metheny.

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*The kind of sensitive swing seldom heard since Bill Evans. Crosara's rubato meanderings are precious insights into his fertile imagination and harmonic daring.*

**Jazz Times Magazine**

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Photo: Julia Crosara

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*Francesco Crosara proves he is a pianist with expert chops and broad interests. [...] Crosara has an awareness of world music but a firm grounding in the modern jazz vernacular. His major piano influences are unsurprising: Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. Like them, he has an interest in electric as well as acoustic jazz.*

### **All About Jazz**

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## **VIDEO, RADIO & FILM**

**Music Videos** – Series of Jazz videos and livestreams during COVID-19 pandemic. "PRELUDIO FLAMENCO" was selected at the 2020 Earshot Jazz Festival as part of the "Earshot Jazz: The Second Century" series.

**Radio** – Featured in 2-part broadcast of jazz piano duo concert recording with Bill Anschell on Seattle's KNKX 88.5FM National Public Radio (April & May 2022).

**Corporate Media** – Series of corporate shorts for SAP (2013) and original music score for short feature "My Life at SAP" (2014).

**TV** – Live jazz performances in trio and quartet format broadcast in Hawaii (1993 & 1994).

**Film** – Original music score for "The Teeny Tinies" a 3-D animation film pilot (1993).

**Advertising** – Commercial Jingles for Hawaiian Host Chocolate radio spots (1994).

**Fine Arts** – Music score, companion DVD for art book: "Sergio Zen – La Pittura Come Pratica Esistenziale, Carte Dipinte 1957-2007" (2008).

## **WORKSHOPS & TEACHING**

**Washington State, 2022** - Serving as Education chair on the Board of Directors of the Music Discovery Center (MDC), a non-profit organization based in Bremerton, WA, dedicated to creating an inclusive space for community members to experience, explore, and contribute to the world of music through education, performance, and mentorship.

**Morelia, Mexico 2005 & 2006** – Conducted master classes in improvisation at the Universidad Michoacana San Nicholas De Hidalgo and at the Conservatory of Music Las Rosas.

**Hawaii 1992-1996** – With the University of Hawaii Statewide Cultural Extension Program, Francesco performed to enthusiastic audiences around the rainbow state bringing jazz education to schools, correctional institutions, libraries and public parks.

**Indiana 1997-1998** – served as Instructor of Piano Improvisational Technique in the Applied Music Program at Purdue University.

## DISCOGRAPHY



Photo: Julia Crosara

*Crosara’s compositions are considerate of their audience, providing a source of joy, comfort, escape, and healing. Crosara believes jazz is a collective experience and a “living language” that distills a multitude of identities, backgrounds, and personalities.*

**Earshot Jazz**



[Energy](#) (1992), debut album,  
Power Wave Records



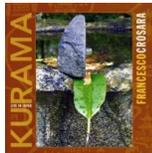
[Colors](#) (1999), featuring Von Freeman,  
Southport Records



[Emotions](#) (2003), featuring Lilian Terry,  
TCB Montreux Jazz Label



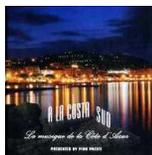
[Notes](#) (2008), piano solo live in Hawaii,  
Crosara Creative



[Kurama](#) (2009), live in Japan,  
Crosara Creative



[Concerto](#) (2011), live in Italy,  
HDmenti (Private Label)



[A La Costa Sud](#) (2009), La Musique de la Côte d’Azur.  
Music compilation. Presented by Pino Presti

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/francescojazz>



YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/francescocrosara>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/francescocrosarajazz/>



All About Jazz: <https://musicians.allaboutjazz.com/francescocrosara>



SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/francescocrosara>