

# FRANCESCO CROSARA

Innovative Jazz Pianist & Composer with a Global Touch



Photo: Julia Wright Crosara

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Francesco Crosara is a Seattle-based Italian-born jazz pianist & composer who is making a significant impact on the jazz scene with a passion for creating and sharing innovative and soulful music. 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, Bruce Forman, Barbara Morrison, Earl Palmer, Lilian Terry, and more.

Crosara also serves as President 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.

Since 2025, Crosara joined the Music Faculty at Olympic College in Bremerton, WA, serving as Adjunct Piano Jazz instructor. He is also the piano chair for the Kitsap Jazz Orchestra (KJO), and the Olympic College Faculty Jazz Sextet.

**Style** – Crosara's music draws from his European roots and blends his passion for world music and the influences of jazz piano greats like Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett, Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans. His ensemble has a unique sound that blends contemporary jazz with elements of classical, world music, and Latin grooves. Crosara's performances are not just concerts, but a musical experience that engages the audience and evokes a range of emotions.

**Discography** – Crosara's 2024 trio album "Circular Motion" (Origin/OA2 Records) includes fresh interpretations of some of his repertoire, composed over 40 years. The album was nominated for NW Recording of the Year at the Golden Ear Awards in Seattle, and has garnered positive reviews internationally, praising his versatility and skillful blending of different musical styles. The album features a variety of acoustic and electric rhythm sections that contribute to its rich, diverse soundscapes. It includes tracks influenced by global music traditions, such as flamenco, tango, and jazz samba, demonstrating Crosara's broad musical palette and classical background.

Crosara's discography includes seven international albums produced since 1992 with his trio debut "Energy". In 1999, he released the acclaimed album "Colors" featuring Von Freeman on tenor sax, which received a 4-star rating from Downbeat. Other releases include "Emotions" in 2003 with Lilian Terry on vocals, "Notes: Piano Solo Live" in 2008, "Kurama: trio live in Japan" in 2009.

A new recording project is in the works with internationally acclaimed guitarist John Stowell.

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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



Photo: Roberto Campagnolo

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**\*EDITOR'S  
CHOICE\***

*Crosara refuses to be pigeonholed as a straightahead or fusion jazz artist, but rather seamlessly combines their aesthetics and instrumentation throughout the album.*

**JAZZIZ  
Magazine**

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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**

## MUSIC EDUCATION AND INFLUENCES

Born in Milan and raised in Rome, Italy, Crosara 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, Crosara 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 he transferred to the Conservatory of Frosinone to specialize in Jazz Harmony, Composition and Improvisation under the guidance of maestro Gerardo Iacoucci.

In 1981 Crosara 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.

## OTHER EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Alongside his music engagements, Crosara pursued a decades long career in Information Technology focusing on consulting services for business applications at large international enterprises. His business qualifications include a B.S. in Business Administration at USC in Los Angeles (1984) and a M.B.A. at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu (1994).

Crosara is now retired from the corporate workforce, and focusing full time on the composition, production and performance of the music he loves.

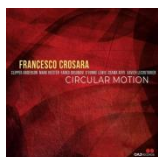


Photo: National Public Radio-KNKX Seattle

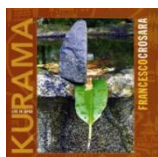
Francesco Crosara proves he is a pianist with expert chops and broad interests. [...] Crosara has an awareness of world music but a firm grounding in the modern jazz vernacular. His major piano influences are unsurprising: Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. Like them, he has an interest in electric as well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

### All About Jazz

## DISCOGRAPHY



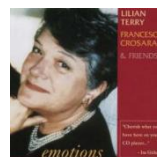
**CIRCULAR MOTION** (2024), Origin / OA2 Records



**KURAMA** (2009), Live in Japan, Crosara Creative



**NOTES** (2008), Piano solo live in Hawaii, Crosara Creative



**EMOTIONS** (2003), Featuring Lilian Terry & Von Freeman, TCB Montreux Jazz



**COLORS** (1999), Featuring Von Freeman, Southport Records

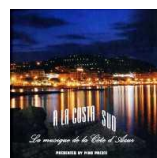


**ENERGY** (1992), Debut album, Power Wave Records

## OTHER MUSIC RECORDINGS



**CONCERTO** (2011), Live in Italy, (Private Label Release)



**A LA COSTA SUD** (2009), La Musique de la Côte d'Azur. Music compilation.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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



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