

## **The James Francies Trio**

Encouraged by his parents to learn by experience, James Francies reveled in knowledge gained in the rich culture of Houston, as he explored the arts and music. While assimilating the contemporary music of his peers, he also developed a distinct interest in jazz.

Even before moving to New York City in 2013, the pianist-composer had generated a well-deserved buzz in the jazz arena. Three years attending Houston's Summer Jazz Workshop solidified his foundation and set a path as a standout at HSPVA, the renowned performing and visual arts high school, whose alumnae include Beyoncé, Jason Moran, Chris Dave and Eric Harland.

He won the Ruth and Eli Nadel Scholarship Award at Stanford Jazz Workshop, earned a full scholarship to Skidmore Summer Jazz Institute in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and was awarded the Moran Scholarship from pianist and 2010 MacArthur Fellow Moran. Francies is the youngest recipient of the American Federation of Musicians President's Youth Award. *DownBeat magazine* honored him twice for Composition and Jazz Arrangement. His band opened for the legendary Jazz Crusaders reunion and he has performed at Monterey Jazz Festival.

At 23, Francies keeps moving forward. Last year, he recorded his debut album for the legendary Blue Note Record Label, and he was named among "8 Artists You Should Know" by the genre-bending website Revive Music. He recently worked on the film score for "Vincent N' Roxxy" with Questlove that stars Zoe Kravitz, Emile Hirsch, and Kid Cudi.

Francies has toured and recorded with the likes of with Eric Harland, The Roots, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Pat Metheny, Chris Potter, Chris Dave and Drumhedz, and fronts his own band, Kinetic. Francies often can be seen on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on NBC with The Roots. He works with them on numerous projects, including music for commercials, film scores and singles.

Francies also was part of Chance The Rapper's hit single "No Problem," which won two Grammy awards in 2017.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.jamesfranciesmusic.com/>

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Photos courtesy of James Francies.