

Cameron Spencer – Professional Keyboard Player

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Personal statement

I am an enthusiastic, passionate and hardworking freelance keyboard player with many years of experience performing live, producing and composing music and teaching the piano to pupils of all ages.

I have been involved with music from a young age, playing in a variety of bands and interacting with musicians from a variety of different disciplines. Since graduating from the Academy of Contemporary Music with a BMus degree in Professional Performance (2:1), I have taught students of all ages and abilities, contributed to several albums and performed original and cover songs at various functions, festivals and aboard cruise ships.

Key Skills and Experience

- Patient, easy to talk to, organised, well-spoken, creative and confident
- Able to lead or support other musicians and perform solo material
- 13+ years' experience playing the piano and performing live
- 8+ years' experience composing and recording original music/covers using DAWs and Sibelius
- 8+ years' experience teaching contemporary and classical music to all ages and abilities

Employment History

Party Band pianist/keyboardist – Princess Cruises, P&O Cruises

(April 2019 – present)

- Performing live to thousands of passengers every day (with a repertoire of several hundred songs)
- Engaging with guests, playing solo sets, covering for musicians and assisting passengers

Head of Marketing and Rural Music Network Assistant – Young Somerset

(September 2017 – September 2019)

Assisted the charity in improving their image and engaging with young people more effectively. As part of a rebrand, created a new company logo, enhanced social media pages and produced high quality posters, leaflets and brochures. Also supported the creation of a much-improved website. This, coupled with a new marketing strategy, has led to a higher turnout at events run by Young Somerset, while also generating more interest among potential funders.

Successfully applied for funding to set up the 'Keys and Production Academy' as an assistant for the Rural Music Network. This initiative improves peoples' confidence as they take part in free group sessions, interact with other musicians and expand their knowledge. Private tuition has also been established at a dedicated studio in Edington.

Freelance Piano Teacher and Performer

(September 2013 – present)

- Teaching the piano to children and adults in Somerset, encouraging them to perform and achieve their goals
- Songwriting, recording and performing with original bands and artists such as The Maitree Express and DD Allen, and playing live with function bands such as Boulevard Soul, Soulside, Motown Gold and Agent Funk

Piano Teacher – Private Music Lessons UK

(September 2015 – September 2016)

- Taught children on a weekly basis in Surrey, preparing them for ABRSM and Rock School grades
- Made lessons more enjoyable with the use of technology, original backing tracks, scores and fun activities
- Selected a varied range of pieces and analysed them to aid students' learning

Piano Teacher – Open2Music

(November 2014 – April 2016)

- Taught secondary school children on a weekly basis at a secondary school in Guildford
- Took part in school assemblies to encourage children to learn the piano and motivate them

Administrator - Datasharp UK

(June 2011 – August 2011)

Part time admin role for a telecommunications company. Tasks included filing electronic documents, editing spreadsheets and contact databases, calculating earnings using various formulae and conducting product research. Learnt how to accomplish tasks efficiently. One notable achievement included being able to complete a database that was left unfinished for several months prior to my employment.

Education/Qualifications

The Academy of Contemporary Music – Keyboard Professional Performance (BMus) – 2:1

(September 2014 – July 2016)

- Became involved with a variety of function bands and original bands in Surrey
- Performed as a member of many students' final performance bands, often providing valuable input and ideas
- Student representative – influenced the new and improved module selection and timetable system for future students. Since 2017, this system has given students the freedom to choose some of their own modules
- Provided valuable feedback regarding courses and facilities to board members as a Student Union member

Huish Sixth Form – A levels in Music and Music Tech

(September 2012 – July 2014)

- Music, Edexcel – B grade
- Music Tech, Edexcel – B grade
- Extended Project Qualification, AQA (analysing video game music, composing an original theme) – C grade

Additional activities:

- Musical Director for a college-based function band
- Played in the college's own Big Band and provided guidance to younger members

Ansford Academy – GCSEs

(September 2007 – July 2012)

- 12 GCSEs, (3 A grades and 9 B grades), ASDAN award in photography

ABRSM Grades

(2005 – 2014)

- Grade 5 theory: distinction; Grade 6 practical exam: merit; Jazz Grade 5 practical exam: distinction

Projects

Events planning

(January 2017 – present)

Co-founded a highly successful mini festival in Somerset in 2017 entitled the 'Butleigh Village Arts in The Park Picnic'. Michael Eavis (founder of Glastonbury Festival) opened the event where many musicians, authors, poets and artists performed or exhibited their work. Money raised was given to the local playing field association.

Oversaw the creation of promotional material, floor plans, equipment lists and other documents. Also ran the social media pages and promotion. The event received rave reviews from staff at Glastonbury FM. Similar events took place in 2018, including a very successful tour of Glastonbury by the Osiligi Maasai Warriors.

Creating MIDI files for clients online

(January 2017 – present)

Collaborated with several musicians online and created MIDI tracks for clients' music projects. Examples include MIDI drum tracks for a pro guitarist in Australia and MIDI piano parts for a pro Jazz guitarist in Germany.

Music composition and production

(March 2015 – present)

Recently composed original songs featuring singer, melody writer and lyricist Gabby Isaacs with airtime on 'BBC Introducing' (Feb 2023). Previously co-produced mainstream pop music with producer Sudhan Gurung. Achievements include raising money with a charity single (endorsed by several famous Nepalese figures) after the Nepalese Earthquake of 2015; collaborating with popular Nepali singer Kamal Man Singh and collaborating with up-and-coming talent 'Aizen' – the music video 'Up In The Morning' has over 115k hits on YouTube as of May 2020.

Videogame project: Star Wars: Battlecry

(September 2012 – September 2018)

Project leader in a team made up of enthusiastic, professional and hobbyist videogame developers from around the world. Worked on a free PC game inspired by the Star Wars Battlefront series and received positive feedback from numerous bloggers, industry professionals and fans across the globe.

Hobbies & Interests

Attended a monthly Jazz jam club in Wells and performed Jazz standards with fellow professional musicians. Performed as a solo pianist at events such as leaving parties and charity fundraisers; have played bass on occasion.

Took part in the National Citizen Service in 2012, participating in activities such as kayaking and abseiling, and on the 2nd week, volunteered at Ebbor Gorge (clearing trees to make way for a new butterfly reserve).

Keen photographer, graphic designer, gamer, cyclist and badminton player. Walked 45 miles in a day as part of the 'Ten Tors' hiking expedition in 2013 as a member of the Sea Scouts.

Other Skills/Additional Information

Many years of experience using the OSX and Windows operating systems, the Microsoft Office suite, Photoshop, Wix, Sony Vegas, Logic Pro 9 and Logic Pro 10.