



# Francesco Crosara

Press Kit 2009

## websites

[www.francescojazz.com](http://www.francescojazz.com)  
[www.youtube.com/user/fcrosara](http://www.youtube.com/user/fcrosara)  
[www.myspace.com/francescocrosara](http://www.myspace.com/francescocrosara)  
[www.facebook.com/francescojazz](http://www.facebook.com/francescojazz)

## email

[francesco@francescojazz.com](mailto:francesco@francescojazz.com)

## At a Glance

### WHO

Francesco Crosara is a jazz pianist, composer and recording artist available for performance at selected musical venues internationally. Format varies from piano solo to trio, or larger group.

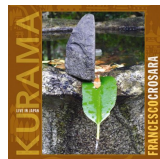
### STYLE

Straight-ahead jazz, with elements of latin, fusion, classical and world music.  
Influences: Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans, Joe Zawinul.

### PERFORMED WITH

Lionel Hampton, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Hargrove, Richie Cole, Von Freeman, Bobby Shew, Ira Sullivan, Don Menza, John Heard, Gabe Baltazar, Mayuto Correa, Bruce Forman, Barbara Morrison, Earl Palmer, and Lilian Terry.

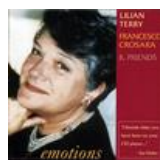
## Discography



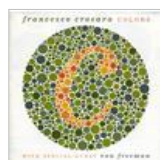
**“KURAMA”** (2009) – Recorded live in Osaka, Japan. Trio performance featuring Yasushi Gonjo on bass and Larry Marshall on drums. Original compositions and jazz standards revisited with a fresh new look, including a tribute to Miles Davis. The album is subdivided into an acoustic trio set followed by an electric/orchestral part, with *Kurama Suite* as the highlight.



**“NOTES”** (2008) – Produced and performed live piano solo concert at Atherton Auditorium in Honolulu sponsored by KHPR (National Public Radio). Originals and jazz compositions by Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk and Bill Evans. Mixed by Bernie Kirsch at Mad Hatter Studio, Los Angeles.



**“EMOTIONS”** (2003) – Jazz and Brazilian arrangements by Francesco, featuring Lilian Terry and Von Freeman plus 12 international musicians. Multi-language lyrics including English, Portuguese, French, and Arabic (on *Night in Tunisia*). Featuring Dave Marr on bass and Rusty Jones on drums. Recorded in Chicago.



**“COLORS”** (1999), featuring guest artist Von Freeman. Format includes jazz standards, original straight ahead and latin jazz. The album was well received by Downbeat Magazine (rated “4 stars”), Jazz Times, Jazz Improvisation Magazine, Cadence Music Review, All Music Guide, All About Jazz and The Jazz Review. Recorded in Chicago and Honolulu.



**“ENERGY”** (1992). Nominated for a Hawaiian 1993 Hoku Hanohano Award in the Instrumental Album of the Year category. Featuring all original compositions, plus as a bonus track (*Lover Man*) with Lilian Terry on vocals. Miles Jackson on bass, Eric Kurtz on drums, Mike Muldoon on percussions. Recorded in Honolulu.

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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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## Artist Bio

Born in Milano, Italy in 1960 and residing in the USA since 1980, Francesco Crosara is an accomplished jazz pianist, composer and educator who has performed at festivals and venues across the United States, Japan, Canada, Mexico, France, Spain and Italy. Francesco comes from a musical family as his mother, Lilian Terry, is one of Europe's foremost jazz vocalists who has recorded also with Dizzy Gillespie and with Tommy Flanagan.



*Jazz On Top, Osaka, Japan, 2008*

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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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*Andy's Jazz Club, Chicago, 1998*

### SELECTED PERFORMANCES

**Japan** – 2009 Tour: 5-concert schedule to promote the new CD "KURAMA", recorded live in Japan in 2008. Featuring drummer Larry Marshall, bassist Yasushi Gonjo, and percussionist Eric Weigmann. A live DVD release from the Japan tour is planned for 2010.

**Mexico** - Featured artist at the 2006 Morelia Jazztival. 2005 Performance at the Teatro Ocampo in Morelia, Michoacan, with tenor sax Juan Alzate, Cuban percussion master Roberto Vizcaino and rhythm session quintet.

**France** – Performance with Lilian Terry and a French trio, at the MIDEM 2003 Festival in Cannes to present their new CD "Emotions" released by "TCB the Montreux Jazz Label". 2001 Performance at Chateauvallon jazz festival and at Nice jazz clubs.

**Los Angeles** - Performances at jazz clubs in Southern California, with Don Menza, John Heard, Ralph Penland, Mayuto Correa (Charlie O's).

**Chicago** – Collaboration with various well known musicians such as Ira Sullivan, Von Freeman and Roy Hargrove (1997 to 2000).

**San Francisco** - Performed at Jazz at Pearl's with guitar virtuoso Bruce Forman, bassist tim Hauff, and drummer Vince Latiano (1992).

**Spain** – Selected, with his group and 40 other diverse artists, to represent Hawaii performing at the US Pavilion during the Universal Expo'92 in Seville, Spain. Also performed at Belgian, New Zealand Pavilions and other public locations (1992).

**Hawaii** – Performance at Leeward Jazz Festival with quartet. Special guest appearance by alto madness founder Richie Cole. Stable member of the Gabe Baltazar's quartet. Performances at festivals, clubs, and televised appearances with Hawaii's saxophone legend.formats (1988 to 1993).

**Los Angeles** – While studying at USC has performed regularly with the University's Jazz Ensemble featuring guest stars such as Lionel Hampton, Freddie Hubbard, Bobby Shew and Bill Magnuson (1981 to 1984).

**Italy 1981** – Performances at Jazz Festivals in Bassano, San Marino and Campobasso. Also featured on Italian TV among a selected group of emerging young artists (1981).

### MEDIA & FILM

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

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

**Film** - Original music score for "The Teeny Tinies" a 3D animation film

### MUSIC EDUCATION

Francesco studied Classical piano & Theory at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome, followed by private studies in Jazz Harmony, Composition and Improvisation in Italy. In 1981 he attended USC in Los Angeles where he was a permanent member of the USC jazz big band. Main music influences were family friends Dizzy Gillespie and Chick Corea.

Piano styles influences: Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans, Joe Zawinul.

## Reviews

**DOWN BEAT** - 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. (John Janowiak, April 2000)

**JAZZ TIMES** - Keyboardist-composer Francesco Crosara has crafted a memorable debut for Southport. (Harvey Siders, May 2000)

**JAZZ IMPROV** - There's a lot of night here: Von Freeman blows smoke, as warm as a fireplace. The piano echoes notes like twinkling stars, beauty surrounded by silence. Beneath this, traces of dark blue... (John Barrett, January 2000)

**JAZZ REVIEW "EMOTIONS"** - Lilian Terry's dusky voice carries a message from the soul. In this album of eclectic meanderings, Terry shows a predilection for subdued urgency. (John Gilbert, March 2004)

**JAZZ REVIEW "COLORS"** - One of the best CDs released during 1999, Francesco Crosara's "Colors" is an electrifying and imaginative jazz collection! (Lee Prosser, November 1999)

**ALL MUSIC GUIDE "EMOTIONS"** - It isn't difficult to understand why many people who consider themselves serious, truly obsessive connoisseurs of jazz singing have never heard of Lilian Terry. (Alex Henderson, June 2003)

**ALL MUSIC GUIDE "COLORS"** - Pianist Crosara uses mostly acoustic piano and some Fender Rhodes to play jazz in a manner unmistakably linked to Chick Corea. (Michael Nastos, August 1999)

**ALL ABOUT JAZZ** - In his impressive new album, Colors, Francesco Crosara proves he is a pianist with expert chops and broad interests. (Joel Roberts, December 1999)

**LA PROVINCIA, ARTES Y VIDA (MEXICO)** - Crosara sacó de las cuerdas del instrumento un canto triste, melancólico, que invitó a la audiencia a la nostalgia y agradeció al público por haberlo cautivado 22 años atrás. A esta pieza le siguió un blues de tono alegre, más vivo, con influencias negras, esas que provienen de los barrios y de las clases marginales que se aferran a la vida. (Sara Mascarua Sanchez, November 29, 2005)

**LA JORNADA (MEXICO) 2005** - El concierto comenzó con Francesco Crosara en solitario, frente a un piano que se dejó seducir por un par de composiciones propias en las que el italiano se mostró introspectivo, sensual en la cadencia de sus ritmos y sofisticado en un sonido que manaba limpio, claro en sus colores y texturas que cautivaban al público. (Carlos Marquez, November 28, 2005)

**LA JORNADA (MEXICO) JAZZTIVAL 2006** - Noche pianística en Morelia: Milan Svoboda y Francesco Crosara dialogaron musicalmente ayer en el Jazztival e hicieron de la capital michoacana la voz iridiscente de un piano. Se confabularon para hacer del jazz un grito que libera y del silencio un atisbo a lo sublime. (Carlos Marquez, April 1, 2006)

**LA VOZ (MEXICO)** - Francesco Crosara, se encuentra en Morelia por cuarta ocasión en el lapso de 23 años. En esta visita, que se inscribe dentro de la tercera edición del "Jazztival Michoacán 2006", ofrecerá mañana una antología de obras musicales propias y que por cierto se encuentran incluidas en sus últimos cuatro fonogramas. (Ernesto Vargas, March 30, 2006)

**MIDEM SPECIAL CANNES** - Lilian Terry, one of Europe's foremost jazz singers, who has worked with greats such as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Mingus and Errol Garner, accompanied at the piano by her son, Francesco Crosara, who has already performed with Freddie Hubbard, Lionel Hampton, Don Menza and many other greats. (MIDEMNet, Cannes, January 2003)

**JAZZ USA** - "Colors" reflects a complex blend of two-handed piano styles. Crosara calls Chick Corea one of his main influences but traces of Tommy Flanagan, McCoy Tyner and Herbie Hancock can be heard. (Jazz USA, January 2000)

**CADENCE** - Francesco Crosara is an excellent piano player, an impression confirmed by his solo introduction to the opening version of Herbie Hancock's "Dolphin Dance"... (David Lewis, February 2000)

**FRA NOI MAGAZINE CHICAGO** - By the age of one, Francesco Crosara (together with his Basset Hound named Poldo) was listening to Miles Davis on a gramophone in his native Milan. (Lucia Mauro, October 1999)

**HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN** - Crosara is a pianist with classical training and a jazz background. He demonstrates his affinity to both genres. (Music Pick, December 1992)

**HONOLULU WEEKLY** - It's a mother and child reunion: Francesco Crosara and Lilian Terry... (Honolulu Weekly, December 1992)



"Colors" Down Beat review, April 2000

# Images



Wazz Club Live Video 2009 – Osaka, Japan



Jazztival 2006 – Morelia, Mexico



MIDEM 2003, with Lilian Terry – Cannes, France



Andy's Jazz Club, with Von Freeman – Chicago 2000



Charlie O's – with Don Menza – Los Angeles 2001



Chick Corea – Los Angeles 2004



Dizzy Gillespie – Rome 1977