

2011 Hall of Fame Inductee

Neal Caine

Class of 1991

Premier jazz bassist Neal Caine began playing violin at the age of three. In high school, he switched to electric and acoustic bass, and has been making a living as a professional musician since that time.

He studied at Tulane University and the University of New Orleans, where he immersed himself in the rich music of New Orleans. He was introduced to a number of local musicians, including Delfeayo Marsalis, who offered him an opportunity for a European tour with his quintet.

By the age of 21, Caine was playing with Elvin Jones' Jazz Machine and moved to New York City. He toured with Diana Krall and later joined jazz legend Betty Carter. After a brief stint in the Benny Green Trio in 2000, Caine joined jazz vocalist Harry Connick Jr.

His discography includes more than 25 titles and 35 CDs, including a couple of Grammy award winners during his long-time affiliation with Connick's orchestra and quartet. Over the years, he has performed at venues such as Broadway, the Grand Ole Opry, the Kennedy Center, the Sydney Opera House, the White House, and the 2002 Winter Olympics. He has appeared on Melrose Place, The Tony Awards, The Today Show, Oprah, Late Night with David Letterman, and Emeril Live, as well as before President George Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Stephanie Harper, President Felipe Calderon of Mexico and Pope Benedict XVI. He also performed at the University City Education Foundation's first Lions of Jazz benefit in June 1999.



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