



## Evolution of American Jazz Piano



**Alan Jay Palmer or BAP (Bad Alan Palmer)** was born in Washington D.C. and attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Alan was exposed to Jazz piano through his first teacher John Malachi and listening to Thelonious Monk, Mingus, and John Coltrane recordings that a neighborhood friend had. At that time, Alan was beginning to play around D.C. with different Go Go bands and developing his Jazz ...chops at Lettumplay w/ Fred Foss, Webster Young and other D.C. Jazz Legends. After high school, Alan attended the famous African American Music Department at The University of Hartford now known as The Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz. While at the conservatory, Alan studied piano and orchestration from Jaki Byard and Hotep Galeta, and began his close mentorship with the master alto saxophonist/educator, Jackie McLean. Alan became Jackie's close disciple and assistant in Music History and Jazz Education. He was the first student ever entrusted to teach Jackie McLean's famous course "The Origin of Man and Music." During his senior year at Hartt Alan joined The Jackie McLean Quintet and toured Europe and Japan with the band. He also recorded his debut album with Jackie McLean on "Rhythm of the Earth" contributing four original compositions. A true dedicated musician, Currently Alan has now emerged as the leader of the BAP TRIO and THE

NEW SOIL big bang and as a new composer in NYC. A talented actor, Alan recently performed in the Living Theatre's revival of Jack Gelber's play The Connection, also contributing new music. Alan has taught music to thousands of students and continues to conduct workshops and master-classes throughout the world. Here is what Jackie McLean said about BAP.

Learn more about Alan Palmer's ongoing online workshops and more at <https://www.unitedmusicscience.com>

## **Referenced during Conversation**

Jackie McLane on Mars - docu (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ap1HJ8Cd4M>)

Jackie McLean Quintet - Umbria Jazz 04 - Mr. E part one.wmv - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBSUCTMgrFY>

Bud Powell - Anthropology (1962) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaSDinL6pC8>

thelonious monk - don't blame me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KshrtLXBdl8>

## **Questions & Short Answers:**

1. Women is Jazz music?
  - a. Mary Lou Williams (the mother of Modern Jazz) taught Monk, Bud Powell, and so many more!
2. Groove and dancing
  - a. Jazz is a dance form! Rhythm is the basis for the melody and harmony..without it nothing makes sense!
3. Would you comment on Monk and his strong rhythmic style? I just found out he grew around people from the Caribbean... Monty Alexander of Jamaica just put a reggae/monk album...
  - a. Rhythm always comes first. Rhythm always comes out of the community!

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