

Biography – Ben Dowling

For a piano player, he's had quite a ride. During the last ten years alone, Ben Dowling has performed at some of the most prestigious venues in the world - from the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, to the Blue Note nightclub scene in Tokyo, to New York's Lincoln Center to the Greek Theater and Hollywood Bowl in LA.

A "musician's musician," he was deeply involved in the development of modern sound synthesizers during his tenure with Korg in the late 80's and early 90's, developing the M1, Wavestation and Oasys synths. As a producer, a music director for Grammy and Academy Award winning artists, a synthesist for Joe Zawinul and Michael Jackson, as film score composer for the CINE Golden Eagle winning United Nations documentary *A Place To Stand* or as a co-writer on The Whispers new Gospel hit, *Thou Art With Me*, Dowling continues to astound with his recent release of jazz fusion project *World Rising*, featuring Will Kennedy, Bob Sheppard and Mindi Abair - currently playing on more than 100 jazz stations around the US.

While it might be expected that a keyboardist could play in as many technology-laden fields of music, what is unexpected is the virtuosity of Dowling's pianistic touch and approach. With a unique, suspensive pedal technique, reminiscent of Chopin and Keith Jarrett, his solo piano music has been embraced by everyone from Kenny Loggins to Best Song Academy Award Nominee Bird York - performing with her recently at several Hollywood benefits and award shows.

Collaborating with other artists seems to be thematic in Dowling's life, demonstrated with his multi-media exploration with painter and visual artist Mark Wagner in Visionsound's *The Path of Peace*, released on CD/DVD hybrid "DualDisc" in 2007. Currently on tour with Earth, Wind & Fire's Al McKay, he scored the film *Spiritual Liberation* featuring American mystic Michael Bernard Beckwith - in addition to performing in his recent PBS Special *The Answer Is You* with Niki Haris, Siedah Garrett and the Agape Choir - and recording *Structures of the Heart*, a series of improvisations with Georg Faust, principal cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Awards and Honors

Over the years, Dowling has accrued multiple Gold and Platinum records, a CINE Golden Eagle (for documentary scoring) and multiple technology awards for synthesizer developments. In addition, his original compositions have been featured on recordings, broadcast radio and television - and internationally in association with the United Nations.