

## Daniel Chu

Daniel Chu is a pianist, composer and arranger whose versatile abilities have made him one of Hong Kong's most sought-after musicians, not only for performances but also music direction and production. Known for combining jazz sensibility with avant-garde prowess, his music resonates across a range of local and international stages, from intimate jazz venues and black box theatres to concert halls, major music festivals and sold-out coliseum shows.

As a jazz pianist, Chu has become a recognised voice in Hong Kong's jazz scene, with his artistry showcased at major festivals and in curated projects. In 2021, he delivered his own solo recital *Extremes* at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, combining pop classics with atonal free improvisation. Between 2021-2023, he was featured multiple times at the Freespace Jazz Fest, Hong Kong's largest jazz festival, with his original work *Game Play* for piano and nine string players (2021), his supergroup featuring Jill Vidal (2022), and the conversation series "Talkin' Jazz" (2023) where he hosted a series of dialogues centered around jazz and improvisation, joined by leading musicians from classical, pop and musical theatre backgrounds.

Chu's international collaborations include performing at the Seoul Jazz Festival in 2025 with Cy Leo, Jaeshin Park and JK Kim Jong-kuk, opening painter Makoto Fujimura's *Song of Songs* exhibition in Taipei, and appearing on saxophonist Scott Murphy's album *a dream of form* alongside Janek Gwizdala and Padget "Fresh" Nanton. In the same year, he was invited to lecture on free improvisation at Seoul National University. In 2018, he co-founded the electroacoustic music trio *manvsmachine* with sound designer hirsk and drummer Blue Kwok, performing extensively across music venues in Europe and Asia.

Chu's extensive experience in writing, arranging and production has led to collaborations with prominent pop singers and theatre practitioners in Hong Kong. As a music director, he has led Terence Lam and The Absent Brother's MOOV digital concert, *I Am What I Am – A Tribute to Leslie Cheung* at WESTK POPFEST, and Tang Shu-wing Theatre Studio's "1014" – *Nanyin x Jazz*. He was also the featured pianist in Big Four's sold-out concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum in 2025.

Academically, Chu graduated *summa cum laude* from the Berklee College of Music at the age of 20. During his time in Boston, he studied with pianists George W Russell Jr, Tim Ray and Kenny Werner, as well as songwriters Sarah Brindell, Jimmy Kachulis and Pat Pattison.

In 2024, Chu completed his MPhil degree in Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, specialising in Ethnomusicology. His thesis entitled “Digging the Hong Kong Jazz Scene: Past, Present, and People” examined the history, contemporary development and musical lives of the Hong Kong jazz scene.

A defining aspect of Chu’s artistic identity lies in the synergy he creates. His music celebrates diverse world cultures, musical traditions and playing techniques. His experience with free improvisation and formal musical training provides him with a unique perspective that encompasses jazz, classical, pop, soul, gospel, folk and experimental.