

## *About Jessica Williams*

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***Stage Introduction, for presenters and masters-of-ceremonies, to introduce Jessica Williams to the audience (either read verbatim or use as an outline):***

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**Jessica Williams is a well-known and highly respected American pianist and composer.**

**DAVE BRUBECK** calls her "One of the greatest pianists I have ever heard..."

**McCOY TYNER** says "Jessica is a beautiful player..."

**ALUN MORGAN** of **Gramophone** believes her to be "The most important pianist to arrive since **Bill Evans**."

This **three-time Grammy Nominee** is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

In her twenties she worked with the great **Philly Joe Jones**, drummer for the Miles Davis Quintet. She also played in the bands of **Eddie Harris, Tony Williams, Stan Getz, Big Nick Nicholas, Airta and Flora Purim, Charlie Rouse, John Abercrombie, Leroy Vinnegar, Charlie Haden, Red Mitchell, Bobby Hutcherson, [and others](#).**

She has released over **70 albums** and written over **350 compositions**. She has received two grants from the

**National Endowment for the Arts; a Rockefeller Grant for composing; the Alice B. Toklas Grant for Women Composers.**

**[She holds a Fellowship with the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.](#)**

**[She has received The ASCAP-PLUS AWARD for distinguished contributions in the areas of composition and performance, yearly for the past 21 years.](#)**

During the last four decades, Jessica has recorded for **Adelphi, Clean Cuts, Jazz Focus, Candid, Concord, Landmark-Fantasy, Timeless, Maxjazz, and Origin Arts.** She also owns her own publishing company, **JJW Music**, owns her own successful CD company called **[Red and Blue Recordings](#)**, and runs her own successful Internet business, **[jessicawilliams.com](#)**.

She's been a guest on NPR's **Fresh Air with Terry Gross**, and on **Marian McPartland's Piano Show**. She's written scores for **PBS** and **HBO** and **[has played everywhere from The Kennedy Center to the Opera House in Tokyo.](#)**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Miss Jessica Williams.**

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