

BARRON RYAN

CLASSIC MEETS COOL

BIO

Barron Ryan's love for music has always been divided. The son of two musicians, he grew up in a house filled with the sounds of artists ranging from Chopin to James Brown. So when it comes to his own performing, that's not content drawing on just one influence. He combines them all into a musical adventure that's vintage yet fresh, historical yet hip, classic yet cool.

After beginning piano lessons at age four with his father, Barron seemed destined for a career in music. He excelled in performing throughout his middle and high school years in Tulsa, OK, then continued to impress his peers and instructors as a piano performance major at The University of Oklahoma.

Everything did *not* come up roses, however, as Barron was then rejected from all the music conservatories you might be impressed by. Disheartened and a little annoyed, he briefly gave up on the piano in pursuit of a satirical hip-hop career. But due to a favorable result in a piano competition that sent its winner to perform in Israel, that project was graciously short-lived.

Thanks to that Israel concert tour, Barron found his artistic voice. He discovered the joy of jazz- and ragtime-inspired concert music (found on his debut album, *Classical with Attitude*), and is learning from great jazz pianists by replaying their solos (found on his latest album, *The Masters' Apprentice*). What's next? You'll have to wait to find out, but rest assured that in all Barron Ryan's music, Classic Meets Cool.

QUOTES

"It was the emotive quality of his playing ... that made for a captivating ride that not only entertained, but also connected and communicated with the audience in a singular fulfilling way."

- Gary Payne, Director, Kensington Concert Series

"A professional both on and off the stage, he was a pleasure to host in our community. Barron's talent and personality are sure to shine on every stage, delighting audiences everywhere."

- Tiffney Harms, Professor of Vocal & Choral Music, Central Christian College of Kansas