

Theron Brown

Theron's first musical influence was discovered at church, under the former pastor, Bishop James W. Gaiters, Sr., while listening to Marcia H. Gaiters (former first lady) play the organ. He began playing the drums under his father's pastorate at age five, followed by the piano at eight years of age, as well as the viola at Grover Cleveland Middle School and Zanesville High School from age ten to eighteen. As his knowledge, curiosity, and passion for music increased, Theron played piano and organ for the Southeast region of The Ohio District Council, traveling to his father's preaching engagements. Theron loved embracing the opportunities to learn from, and play with other musicians that he met through the church's gatherings. His talent flourished as he experienced more diversity.

Theron's musical studies include the University of Akron, where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz studies in 2014. He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in classical piano performance at the University of Akron. He is also a Student Ambassador there.

As an artist, the musicians that Theron has performed with have been many and varied. Theron has played with musicians such as Dan Wilson, Sean Jones, The Huntertones (formerly DW6), The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, The Bad Plus Band, Chris Coles, Chris Anderson, Greg Banasak, The Sam Blakeslee Large Ensemble, Josh Rzepka, Javon Jackson, Snarky Puppy, Donny McCaslin, Peter White, Walter Beasley, Christian McBride, Ken Peplowski, Gary Smulyan, Warren Wolf, The Admirables, University of Akron Ensembles, Nathan Davis, and Bobby Selvaggio. Theron's worldwide performances, particularly those with trios, quartets, and big bands, brought him recognition from numerous places all around the world.

Theron has played at venues and events such as: Blu Jazz+ (Akron, Ohio), The Bop Stop (Cleveland, Ohio), Nighttown (Cleveland, Ohio), Brothers Lounge (Cleveland, Ohio), The Lincoln Theater (Columbus, Ohio), Small's Jazz Club (New York, New York), The Montreal Jazz Festival (Montreal, Canada), The Tri-C Jazz Festival (Cleveland, Ohio), The Toronto Jazz Festival (Toronto, Canada), The Blue Plum Jazz Festival (Johnson City, Tennessee), Blue Jazz Club (Akron, Ohio), Salle Wilfrid Pelletier, Place des Arts (Montreal, Canada), Sapporo Concert Hall (Sapporo, Japan), Olympus Hall Hachiouji, Tokyo Kokusai Forum Hall C, (Tokyo, Japan), Sun Plaza Hall (Sendai, Japan), Ishikawa Kenritsu Ongakudo (Kanazawa, Japan), and Izumi No Mori Hall (Urayasu, Japan). Theron enjoyed traveling and learning the culture of so many different geographical areas.

Theron came across an amazing opportunity, when he was encouraged by family and friends; he auditioned for and was cast as young Herbie Hancock in the soon to be released film, *Miles Ahead*, directed by and starring Don Cheadle. This movie is an intimate look into the life of jazz artist, Miles Davis and is scheduled for release April 1, 2016. Working with Don Cheadle inspired Theron to give more consideration to acting; he someday aspires to share the silver screen with actor Samuel L. Jackson and Morgan Freeman.

Theron currently resides in Akron, Ohio, where he is a professor of Jazz Piano at Kent State University and Youngstown State University, and he is immensely involved in promoting jazz and classical music. He takes pride in teaching young musicians the fundamentals of music, and volunteering his musical talent at community activities, while uplifting the Northeastern Ohio region with his sound. Theron is the founder of the Rubber City Jazz & Blues Festival, which takes place in Akron, Ohio's downtown historic district. Theron stringently continues to dedicate his life to the infinite pursuit of musical knowledge.