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Songwriting and Composing™

The magazine for International Songwriters and Composers

Guild Member Profile

Ray Shaw

Composer | Producer | Arranger



The Guild of International Songwriters and Composers

GUILD MEMBER PROFILE

Ray Shaw



Ray Shaw on his Yamaha Clavinova Piano

any desire in me to take it further, football and playing with friends seemed to be the priority!

It was not until my teens when my father (also a musician by ear) bought a Hammond organ that I started to really take an interest.



My Dad on his keyboard

I seemed to pick the organ up quite naturally and once the more modern portable keyboards arrived onto the scene I was hooked. I then decided to study piano up to and including Grade 8 knowing this would advance my playing skills and introduce a whole new piano repertoire. I quickly realised that whilst I enjoyed playing other composer's music I really wanted to write my own and this is the path I embarked upon. I eventually progressed to owning a Yamaha Clavinova Piano which has an onboard sequencer, numerous sampled instruments and various rhythmic accompaniments to utilise as you see fit.

This gave me the tools to start thinking like an orchestra and allowing me to choose any sampled instrument and systematically introduce them via the onboard sequencer. The genres of music I tend to stick to are classical, light jazz, popular, film/TV and Latin for which I've now written over 50 short pieces. The next stage for me is to showcase my music and to do this I've created my own website, www.rayshawmusic.com

As a recently retired UK civil servant I can now spend more time on my great passion for composing music. When working as a civil servant work took up most of my day and sometimes night resulting in little time to concentrate on music. Music has always been a part of my life especially from a listening perspective as I grew up listening to classical music through my father and from this, I was always fascinated by the different interpretations and orchestrations which significantly helped me when I started to compose and arrange my own compositions. I started playing piano by ear from an early age memorising my sister's piano pieces and fooling my parents into thinking it was my sister practicing, much to her amusement. Even showing an early gift at that age it didn't stir up

The website captures every piece I've composed, arranged and performed on keyboards and piano and I've already started to try and score the pieces for piano but this will be a lengthy process. The music is of course restricted to my standard of playing hence the reason for showcasing complete performances so that more accomplished musicians/arrangers than myself could consider performing them.

For example, from the orchestral/choral category from the CLASSICAL pull down menu on the website I think "The Homecoming", "Hymn of Joy", "Aftermath" and "Believe" would really come to life if performed by a real orchestra and real choir. Also, some of my pieces require words which I'm unable to compose so there will be a need for collaborations should talented members in that field be interested. It would be great if members took the time to view my website and listen to my music (best via headphones) and I'd be more than happy to receive feedback and chat via email. There is also a contact facility on the website itself.

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