Photo by Agnieska Rytych-Foster

BIO

Brian Friedland is a Boston-based pianist and composer whose creative curiosity leads him across a wide range of musical worlds. His music embraces both beauty and absurdity, pairing lyrical writing and adventurous improvisation with infectious grooves, humor, and whimsy. Whether evoking a vivid experience or exploring abstract ideas, he aims to take listeners somewhere unexpected, spark their imaginations, and inspire them to embrace their own creativity.

Friedland has released nine albums, including six as a leader and three as co-leader of the collectively led trio Man On Land, formed in 2009 with bassist Greg Loughman and drummer Austin McMahon. His extensive compositional catalog includes big band charts, orchestral writing, chamber works, and songs for a wide variety of ensembles. He has received commissions from the American Composers Orchestra, the Composers Saxophone Quartet, the Longy School of Music's American Music Ensemble, and the Quarantined Woodwind Ensemble.

His projects explore distinct musical territories: Man On Land blends melody, narrative, atmosphere, and exploratory interplay; Use The Force reimagines iconic film and television themes as groove-driven jazz fusion; and Rhombus combines modern jazz with Balkan rhythms, rock energy, and avant-garde improvisation. His *Household Items* song cycle and multimedia series transforms found texts—including advertising copy,

warning labels, and instructional manuals—into music ranging from Irish jigs to gospel anthems. Written for a 23-piece jazz orchestra, the project has been presented at Harvard University and featured on NPR.

As a performer, Friedland has appeared at the Panama JazzFest, the Lima Jazz Festival, and the American Pianists Association's Cole Porter competition, and toured Korea with drummer Woongwon Hahn. His touring credits include the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the internationally renowned vocal group Il Divo; he has also performed with Andrea Bocelli and leading jazz artists including Jerry Bergonzi, Ran Blake, Allan Chase, and Jason Palmer.

Friedland is equally committed to creating opportunities for other musicians. He founded the Schoolyard Series, Jazz Sundays at the Square Root, and the Roslindale Jazz Festival, presenting local artists, emerging and experimental projects, Boston jazz veterans, and touring musicians from around the world. His 2026 Improvisation Series invited local jazz greats to join in four concerts exploring musical games and experimentation. His programming has helped strengthen the local scene while bringing adventurous music to new audiences. These efforts have won support from the Boston Cultural Council, Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, Fenway Forward, Mass Cultural Council, New England Jazz Connections, and Roslindale Village Main Streets, among others.

An Assistant Professor in Berklee College of Music's Harmony Department and a teacher at Brookline Music School, Friedland brings the same spirit of curiosity and play to his teaching, encouraging students of all ages to experiment, develop their own voices, and find joy in the creative process.

Learn more at BrianFriedland.com

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