

Richard Sussman – Short Bio

Richard Sussman is a jazz pianist, composer, music technologist, educator, and author. He has performed with many jazz & pop greats including **Lionel Hampton, Lee Konitz, Houston Person, Randy Brecker, Donna Summer, Blood Sweat & Tears**, and many others. Richard has recorded six critically acclaimed albums of original music as a leader. His album, “The Evolution Suite” for Jazz Quintet, String Quartet, and Electronics, is a live recording released on Zoho Records in October, 2016. With his most recent recording, **“Synergy – Bobby Kapp Plays the Music of Richard Sussman”** (2023), Sussman continues his exploration of the integration of contemporary jazz harmonies and improvisation with avant-garde classical compositional techniques and instrumentation. Known for his large ensemble arrangements and compositions, his music has been performed by the **Village Vanguard Orchestra, Westchester Jazz Orchestra, Metropole Orchestra**, and the **American Composers Orchestra** in New York, among others.

Richard has been a member of the jazz faculty at the Manhattan School of Music since 1986, where his responsibilities have included teaching and developing curriculum for jazz arranging & composition classes, and managing all aspects of the Electronic Music Technology Studios and related courses for the Jazz Department. Richard Sussman’s book **“Jazz Composition and Arranging in the Digital Age”** (Oxford University Press, 2012), has been hailed as a comprehensive and trend-setting text for jazz composers in the 21st century. Richard is a skilled and experienced clinician and has presented clinics and performances at many national and international conferences including IAJE, CMS, ATMI, and JEN.

Richard has received numerous awards including two NEA grants in Jazz Composition, an ASCAP Jazz Composition Award in 2008, and most recently a Chamber Music America New Jazz Works grant completed in December 2015. His extensive work in the field of film and TV has included projects for ABC, NBC, CBS, Disney, and Nickelodeon. Richard has traveled to China on a regular basis since 2012 teaching master classes, private students, coaching ensembles at major conservatories, and performing at top jazz venues in Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu, and Hong Kong. His book "Jazz Theory and Improvisation", has been translated to Mandarin and published by Shanghai Music Publishing House in 2020.

“Richard Sussman is among the most ambitious composers on the jazz scene today, rooted in tradition yet amenable to new trends and sounds.” - Downbeat