

**The Jazz Piano Trio, Part 1
OLLI @Berkeley, Winter 2019**

Jeff Denson, Instructor

Wednesdays, 1/23 – 3/6 (No class 1/30)
10:00 – noon
Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse

Course Description

The piano trio is a powerful ensemble/instrumentation with a rich history within the jazz idiom. We will examine three groundbreaking trios that helped to not only establish this instrumentation as a permanent fixture in jazz, but also set the bar for all others to be judged. We will begin looking at the music of the virtuosic powerhouse pianist, Oscar Peterson, then on to the unequalled touch and rhythmic brilliance of Ahmad Jamal and finally to the introspective, lush-harmonic and communication-based music of Bill Evans. Each of these pianist's trios gave unique contributions to the music that continue to influence all piano trios to this very day. We will briefly discuss the lives of each of these artists, however the focus of the course will be on their important musical contributions. This course utilizes audio and video recordings and live demonstrations.

Course Outline

1. Jan. 23 Oscar Peterson and his Trios
2. Feb. 6 Live in-class performance
3. Feb. 13 Ahmad Jamal Trio
4. Feb. 20 Lecture continued and in-class performance
5. Feb. 27 Bill Evans Trio
6. March 6 Lecture continued and in-class performance