

## **Erica von Kleist - Short Bio**

Multi-instrumentalist, teacher and entrepreneur Erica von Kleist began her career as a saxophonist and flautist in the New York jazz scene. A native of Connecticut, Erica moved to the city to study at the renowned Juilliard School and in 2004 earned the first bachelor's degree in jazz in the school's history. After graduation, Erica's next ten years were met with performances, tours and several Grammy-Nominated recordings with various artists including the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chris Potter, Sean Jones, Rufus Reid, among others. Honored with two ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Awards, several mentions in Downbeat's annual Readers and Critics Polls, and the Martin E. Segal Award from Lincoln Center, Erica extended her scope as a bandleader with the release of three albums. As a pianist Erica has worked as musical director for Broadway stars Michael Kevin Eldred and Eric Michael Krop.

A teacher for over 20 years, Erica has always had a passion for education. As a clinician, Erica has lectured in music business and performance at The Juilliard School, UNC Greensboro, University of Scranton, University of Montana, Stanford University, and has been an adjudicator for the Essentially Ellington Festival, and a faculty member for Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz Program.

When not at the helm running her two arts-based companies in northwest Montana or traveling for concerts or clinics, Erica plays piano every week at a hotel in Whitefish, and performs in several duos throughout the state. Erica endorses RS Berkeley Instruments.