

# Dave Buehler



## BIO

Growing up in Sacramento, classically trained pianist Dave Buehler's jazz sensibilities were heavily shaped by his older brother, who built a mail order stereo and played jazz albums by Herbie Hancock, Miles Davis, John Coltrane and other jazz greats. His later embrace of jazz fusion inspired a youthful ambition to follow in the innovative footsteps of Chick Corea and Keith Jarrett, which led him to form the Dave Buehler Trio, performing regularly at local and regional jazz venues for 20 years. Beyond that, Buehler's done just about everything else throughout his fascinating, eclectic career.

He started out playing electric piano in a high school rock band; worked as a studio musician and/or producer for local advertising, corporate and voice-over projects; performed with numerous regional jazz and pop artists including Henry Robinett, Phil Silas, Crayon, Ana G and Mat Marucci; and recorded the critically acclaimed indie album Acoustic Impressions with his longtime straight ahead jazz trio. For the past 13 years, Buehler has led and played keyboards in the popular, multiple award-winning Steelin' Dan tribute band Steelin' Dan. During the pandemic, he returned to solo piano and composed and released several acoustic new age tunes and a dynamic improvisational piece.

Even as he led his trio in countless local performances for the 20 years prior to joining the Steelin' Dan group, Buehler always had a passion for smooth/urban jazz, particularly top keyboard artists like Gregg Karukas, Ramsey Lewis, Bob James and Jeff Lorber. His longtime interest now manifests in "Walkin' Home," the keyboardist's infectious and grooving, piano-centric debut single in the genre, produced by and featuring #1 Billboard charting artist and mega-producer Nils on guitar. Buehler promises this will be just the first of more collaborations with Nils as he works towards releasing an EP down the line.

The keyboardist's work with Nils is rooted in his involvement in Steelin' Dan and longtime professional and personal friendship with the group's saxophonist Charley Langer, a Billboard charting artist who worked extensively with Nils on his 2017 album Happy Hour, which spawned the Top 15 radio hit "J Street Groove." Though Steelin' Dan was a popular draw since its founding in 2003, Buehler's involvement has taken the 10-piece ensemble to a more prestigious level of popularity, taking them from small clubs and street fairs to performances at large regional venues.

Steelin' Dan was awarded the Sammie Award for Best Tribute band four years in a row (2015-18) by readers of the Sacramento News and Review and earned a Best of Sacramento Award by Sacramento Magazine, which featured them in their July 2022 issue as one of area's top tribute bands - complete with an interview with Buehler about the band. The group includes lead vocalist Sandford Wragg and veteran bassist Larry Tagg (famed for his 80s group Bourgeois Tagg and his world tours with Todd Rundgren and Hall & Oates).

"Over the years, while making all kinds of music in other genres and thoroughly enjoying the Steelin' Dan experience, I have written many smooth jazz-oriented songs in my home studio, but this is the first time I've had the opportunity to work with a high-level producer like Nils," says Buehler. "I'm looking at 'Walkin' Home' as an opportunity to both fulfill a longtime goal and explore my potential as an instrumental artist. Having played this kind of music as far back as the funk bands in high school, I feel like I have a lot to offer in that context as a composer and performer."



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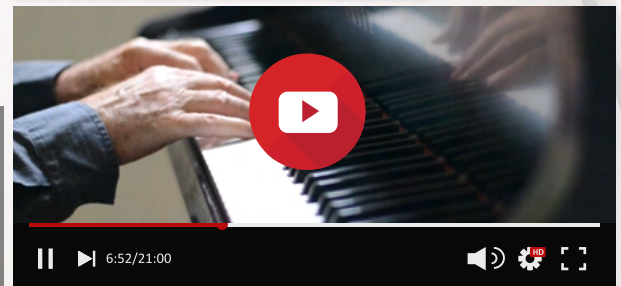


"I gave Nils a basic track, a chord structure and outline of what I wanted to play on the piano, with the rhythm track created on a drum machine. He did a fantastic job, contributing his incredible guitar vibe and hiring the powerful rhythm section of bassist Jerome Randall and drummer Gorden Campbell. Working on this project with Nils, and all the creative back and forth we did trying to get every detail just right, has been the most fun musical project I've ever worked on. Considering my professional background doing so many other things with great musicians, that's saying a lot. I'm excited to see how my career will develop from here."

## ON STAGE

In the Sacramento Magazine article on Steelin' Dan, Dave Buehler says, "I don't know how many people have come up to me over the years and said they saw Steely Dan live and didn't like it because they changed the arrangements up and the songs aren't like they remember. They say they'd rather pay \$20 and see us play Steely Dan from the records." The magazine is quoted as saying, "Even the most discriminating Steely Dan fans will be hard-pressed to find flaws in (their) amazingly accurate arrangements and marksman-like musicianship." Under the keyboardist's leadership, the band - averaging 10-12 local and regional performances per year - has earned all those awards, built a major following and been booked at much larger venues than during its first decade on the scene.

[Watch Dave Live! Click here.](#)



Considering himself an introvert who "won't be jumping around the stage" when he performs, he prefers to just sit down and play and let the music speak for itself. The band has headlined at such Northern California hotspots as Yoshi's in Oakland, The Crest Theatre and The Sofia Theatre in Sacramento, Sammy's Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley. They have also performed in SoCal at Spotlight 29 Casino in Coachella.

## NOTABLE LIVE PERFORMANCES

Yoshi's - Oakland, CA  
Sweetwater Music Hall - Mill Valley, CA  
The Mystic Theatre - Petaluma, CA  
The Crest Theatre - Sacramento, CA  
The Harris Center - Folsom, CA  
Swabbies on the River - Sacramento, CA  
The Center for the Arts - Grass Valley, CA  
The Sofia Theater - Sacramento, CA  
Crystal Bay Casino - Lake Tahoe, CA  
Sacramento Jazz Festival - Sacramento, CA  
Spotlight 29 Casino - Coachella, CA  
Sammy's Room at Harrah Lake Tahoe - Lake Tahoe, CA  
Harlow's Restaurant and Bar - Sacramento, CA  
Naggiar Vineyards and Winery - Clarksburg, CA  
Miners Leap Winery - Clarksburg, CA  
David Girard Vineyards - Placerville, CA  
The Green Room Social Club - Placerville, CA  
Silo's - Napa, CA  
Gold Country Casino - Oroville, CA  
Alameda County Fair - Alameda, CA



[www.davebuehler.com](http://www.davebuehler.com)



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## MUSIC



The great pleasure of a multi-faceted, genre transcendent composer, artist and performer like Dave Buehler is that there are many ways to experience his expansive artistry. You can check out videos of him playing with Steelin' Dan both on their website ([www.steelindan.com](http://www.steelindan.com)) and a multitude of YouTube videos. The music from The Dave Buehler Trio's album Acoustic Impressions - which showcases his love for straight ahead jazz and his keen sense of improvisation - is available to listen to and purchase at

[www.davebuehler.com/music](http://www.davebuehler.com/music).



"Walkin' Home," Buehler's debut smooth/urban jazz single produced by and featuring Nils, draws on the powerful sense of melody expressed in his new age works and the funky, freewheeling and jamming, R&B-inflected vibe he brings to Steelin' Dan (and surely those teenage funk experiences he mentions). The keyboardist works his struttin', swirling melodic magic over a tight, buoyant, ultra-infectious pocket groove and Nils' dynamic bluesy synth lines, tasty electric guitar licks and subtle atmospheres, with some clever repeated, hypnotic vamping chords between verses.

Named for the feeling it gave Buehler of walking home from work or the park, the track brings a fresh, piano centric energy to smooth jazz. Compositionally, it's up there with the music of his genre heroes like Gregg Karukas.

During the early days of the pandemic, Buehler released four beautiful, eloquent and deeply soulful and reflective new age piano pieces as individual singles - "Easter Song," "Vernal Pools," "Leave No Trace" and "Hope Valley." Compositionally and performance wise, these tunes are on par with the works of any of the great acoustic solo pianists - from George Winston to Peter Kater. In 2021, he added to his solo piano catalog with a more free-flowing, impressionistic 10-minute plus piece titled "Piano Improvisation #1."

## FROM THE BEGINNING

Classically trained on piano from ages eight to 18, Dave Buehler is grateful for the discipline he learned practicing scales, learning to sight read and playing many difficult pieces. He credits his older brother for exposing him to jazz greats and rock albums by the Rolling Stones, The Beatles and Santana. When his brother attended college in San Francisco, he invited Buehler down to check out shows at the legendary Keystone Corner jazz club. Buehler ultimately went on to study in Los Angeles with Mike Garson, legendary for his many years as David Bowie's keyboardist. After playing in various jazz bands while attending Sacramento State as a civil engineering major, he pursued music as a full-time career for several years, doing commercial session work at local studios for Sacramento area businesses.

Wanting to combine his love for music and sound with his engineering degree, he became a successful acoustic designer and consultant for recording studios, theaters, and churches, first with a company in San Francisco before forming his own consulting group. While starting a family, he eventually moved back to Sacramento to do acoustics-oriented work for an environmental consulting firm. While establishing himself on that career path, he began playing in different bands, doing more studio work, launching and recording with his acoustic trio and building his own studio.



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## REVIEW

"A welcome addition to the smooth urban jazz fold with his explosive debut single "Walkin' Home" featuring and produced by Nils, Dave Buehler is one of those rare musicians and artists who can truly do it and play it all. While bringing melodic and grooving excitement to his role as keyboardist with Steelin' Dan, and sensitivity, swing and improvisational excitement to his trio, he also shared his sensitive, reflective side with the new age piano solos. With all that on his resume, one may be inclined to think his venture into smooth jazz is a lark, or a one-off excursion. But he's having the time of his life so far, and with his level of commitment to fulfilling his longtime goal of success in that genre with the help top genre talent, his future success and a lengthy career making this kind of music seems assured." - Jonathan Widran

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