New Age pianist Jason Tonioli (pronounced: toe-knee-oh-lee) was born in 1979 and raised in Soda Springs, Idaho and Roy, Utah. He started piano lessons when he was in Kindergarten and enjoyed practicing for the first year. Throughout his school years, he disliked practicing (however, he did enjoy the fact that girls like a guy who can play piano). His piano skills are a product of excellent teachers and a mother who wouldn’t let him quit lessons. If it weren’t for a mother who won the “piano war” with her son, he would have never recorded or written music.

Jason always enjoyed playing piano, as long as he could play what he wanted, the way he wanted. When practicing, he would often play part of what Mozart, Beethoven, or Rachmaninoff had written and part what he made up while playing. His mother and teacher often looked down upon changing what was written and always told him that when he started writing his own music, he could write and play the way “he thought” it should be done. He was influenced by Yanni, Enya, Jim Brickman, Jon Schmidt (a.k.a. The Piano Guys), and Paul Cardall.

When Jason isn’t playing piano, he is also a well known thought leader in the banking industry, runs a record label “Aingeal Music Worldwide”, is one of the founders of the tour company Amazing Vacations Costa Rica, and Travel Agency Amazing Vacations USA. His Costa Rica team specializes in planning family and group trips in Costa Rica that focus on adventure, culture, humanitarian and educational tours. His travel agency focuses on helping families and groups plan cruises, Disney trips, and other adventure vacations to all parts of the world.

Most important, he enjoys time spent with his four amazing kids and wife, Stacy.
JASON TONIOLI

SONGS FOR PEACE

HEALING PIANO MUSIC

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I can still remember the first few days of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I’d just come home from leading a trip to Costa Rica and had recently returned from a large conference in Nashville. My travel agency business was having a record year and the coming year was expected to be our biggest yet. The future was bright and we thought nothing could stop our progress.

Then, within a matter of a few days, the entire world came to a halt. Uncertainty and fear, anxiousness, panic, unrest, worry, and discouragement became the new normal. Extreme political views from all sides were amplified to a level never before seen and were constantly screaming at us. There may not have been a more emotional time than the past two years of the pandemic.

Many times, I find inspiration from emotions or events that I have lived through, and I’ve tried to capture those feelings through music. Nearly all of the songs in this book were written during the covid 19 pandemic. Most were songs that came while looking to capture the emotions I was feeling, but in looking back on my experiences over the past few years, I hope this music can create a renewed feeling of, and hope for peace when others listen.

The past few years have highlighted the important role each person plays in this world we live in. Whether it be a doctor, nurse, teacher, police officer, construction worker, restaurant worker, mother, father, etc., each of us has an important role and our lives are all affected when someone is not willing and/or able to do his or her job. Disagreements and fighting only make things worse.

My hope is that the music I am able to share from my Covid experience can help bring healing in some way to what has become a very troubled world. Nothing would make me happier than to know that some of the peaceful music in this book was able to facilitate and create a calming feeling and desire to show kindness, caring, and love for others. May we all get along again, and value and respect each person who is part of the same human family.
A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER FOR MOTHERS AND PIANO STUDENTS

When you play my music, have fun with it. If you don’t like the way a note sounds, go ahead and change it. Play it the way you think it should sound. I’m ok with that and promise not to come out of my grave to haunt you if you do. However, I do caution you to be careful when changing any dead composer’s music, like Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, etc. They have been known to roll over in their graves and even haunt anyone who changes their music.

To any piano student who has wanted to quit lessons (probably several of you): DON’T QUIT! You’ll regret it for the rest of your life. Your teacher and parents really do know what they are talking about when they tell you you’ll be glad you kept taking lessons. (Remember, this is coming from someone who told his mom he hated piano for years.) Stick it out and keep practicing. I promise you, you’ll be glad you did, and when you get older, you’ll thank your parents and teachers for not letting you give up.

Jason Tonioli

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