

Koji Cassetta is an Detroit-based bassist, performer, composer, bandleader, and educator. Koji first started playing the bass at age 13, starting with the electric bass guitar. It wasn't too long before he decided he wanted to make a career out of the bass, and picked up the upright bass a year later, joining the orchestra and jazz bands. His first professional gig was performing electric bass in a live hip-hop band opening for The Pharcyde at the Intersection venue, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, when he was 18 years old. A few years later, he saw renowned bassist Marion Hayden perform and he was inspired to study jazz bass and improvisational music from there on out. He then studied with another acclaimed bassist from Philadelphia, Jeff Pedraz, who mentored him in jazz bass for a year before sending him off to study with internationally-acclaimed bassist and educator Professor Rodney Whitaker at Michigan State University.

During his undergraduate period, he had the opportunity to perform alongside Louis Hayes, Kenny Barron, Mimi Jones, Harvey Mason, Wycliffe Gordon, and Dave Stryker. He completed his undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies, and is currently receiving his master's degree at MSU as well, having received a full scholarship and position as a graduate teaching assistant. He is also currently touring with Michigan State University's premier ensemble, Jazz Orchestra I, and will be touring with Renee Rosnes, Lewis Nash, and Regina Carter from 2021-2022, and will be participating in the Jack Rudin Competition in NYC in January 2022.

He has also performed all over Michigan alongside artists and local legends including Marion Hayden, Kevin Bujo Jones, Chuck McPherson, DeSean Jones, Zen Zadravec, John Douglas, and others at famous venues throughout Michigan, including: Blue Llama Jazz Club, Cliff Bell's, Baker's Keyboard Lounge, Bert's Marketplace, GR Noir and Jazz, and the Detroit Masonic Temple.

Koji's original music is influenced by jazz, hip hop, funk, samba, and electronic music, and is currently developing originals to be released later this year. He also has a passion for teaching music, and has taught private lessons since 2019 in bass, music theory, songwriting, and music production.