

# alissa musto

## PIANIST & VOCALIST



Alissa Musto's desire to perform began at four years old—sitting by the door with a garage sale guitar and begging her father, a professional "piano man", to take her to work with him. He made a promise; if Alissa learned to play piano, someday she'd be able to join. Less than a year later and equipped with a wooden block to reach the sustain pedal, Alissa, the youngest and least experienced, won her first piano competition performing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. Eager to follow in dad's footsteps and adding rock and vocals to her arrangements, Alissa grabbed the attention of local talent shows, NBC's Spotlight on the Student Artist series and at age 9, the national television series, "America's Most Talented Kid".

Growing up in Massachusetts, Alissa juggled a rigorous schedule at Providence Country Day School with her musical aspirations--using lunch breaks to practice, performing in local venues on the weekends and racking up local and national honors including "Piano Act of the Year" in the nationally-airing Wonderworld TV Golden Ribby Awards, top three in the 19 & under Music On & Up Showcase grand finale, winner of the Rhode Island's Got Talent and New England Performs talent competitions and top 10 in KidzStar USA, a talent search attracting 45,000+ entries. As part of the "Find Your Voice" competition, Music & Arts, the largest retail chain of band and orchestra instruments, chose Alissa and four other young artists nationwide to sponsor with new musical equipment and scholarships. Dubbed a "Rising Star of Jazz" by FirstWorks, Alissa opened for trumpet legend, Wynton Marsalis at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, with her high school jazz quartet and signed on to the SuperCuts Rock the Cut national campaign for upcoming artists.

On January 5th, 2015, Alissa released her debut album, "What We Saw From the Piano Bar"—the same day her biggest inspiration, Bruce Springsteen, released his debut album in 1973. Immediately following the release, her single "Black Flak" beat out dozens of local artists in the MusicToVideo contest and has been featured on radio shows and blogs nationally, including SiriusXM radio. One of six participants from over 4,300 submissions, Alissa was also selected for the House of Blues Bringing Down the House Class of 2015 and chosen as the winner of the Justine Magazine Talent Search and Needham Music Awards. After successfully completing the program, she was invited to serve on the Music Forward Foundation Alumni Advisory Board and contribute to the Foundation's compilation album.

One month after her 21st birthday and graduation from Harvard University, Alissa was crowned Miss Massachusetts and competed in the 2017 Miss America pageant, placing as a top 15 finalist. During her year of service, Alissa continued the music education efforts she implemented as Miss Tri-County 2015 and Miss Cambridge 2016. As Miss Massachusetts, Alissa appeared on numerous news and radio shows, was honored by the Massachusetts House of Representatives, her hometown Board of Selectmen and the Massachusetts Governor's Office, and participated in dozens of speaking and appearance engagements at galas, award shows, fundraisers, schools, hospitals, club meetings and her personal favorite, the 116th annual Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade—the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in the country.

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Funded by the scholarship money she won through the Miss America Organization and additional merit scholarships, Alissa earned her Master of Music from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where she studied Music Business and Entertainment Industries. Her academic work has been published several times in the Berklee Music Business Journal.

As a performer for Billboard Onboard, the award-winning pop piano show aboard Holland America's luxury cruise ships, and a resident guest entertainer for Princess Cruiselines. Alissa has dazzled audiences while sailing throughout over 50 countries. When the Covid-19 pandemic brought cruising to a halt in March 2020, Alissa disembarked and returned to Massachusetts where she wrote, recorded and released her single, "How Still", from home. When the song was released on May 1st, also known as "May Day", there were still 100,000 crew members stuck onboard. Determined to shed light on the issue, "How Still" spotlighted the struggles of the sinking industry and uncertainty facing crew members at home and at sea. The music video featured short videos and selfies submitted by seafarers across cruise lines, nationalities and backgrounds, expressing the messages they wanted the world to know. The song quickly hit 20,000 views on Facebook and Alissa's story was featured in Conde Nast Traveler, GEN (a Medium publication), The Washington Post, the cover page of The Herald News, NBC Boston, Good Morning America and ABC's national lifestyle network, Localish.

Alissa has graced stages across New England, New York City and across the United States including the House of Blues, the Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods Resort & Casino, the Rhode Island Convention Center, the Wang Theater, the Peabody Essex Museum in the "Ocean Liners: Glamor, Speed, and Style" exhibit, Boston's prestige hotels, restaurants, universities and events for corporations, charities and political candidates. She has maintained long-term piano bar residencies at Point Street Dueling Pianos (Providence, RI), Jacob Wirth (Boston, MA) and Mastro's Ocean Club (Boston, MA) and is a preferred entertainer within New England's top agencies and dueling piano clubs around the country. She has been recognized as a Boston Office of Arts and Culture grant recipient and finalist in the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, Limelight Music Awards and New England Music Awards. Her 2017 acoustic EP, "X Post Facto" has been described as "hauntingly beautiful", "captivating", "poignant, authentic" and "the millennial ballad of the century", while she has been praised as a "jazzy-folk songwriting genius" and "your generation's Billy Joel".

During the pandemic, Alissa traveled cross country in a camper van, lived on a sailboat and eventually relocated to Florida where she performs full time, in addition to being a signed model and actress. In October 2021, she competed in the historic Miss World America virtual pageant--a preliminary to the oldest-running international pageant, winning the Beauty With A Purpose and Talent challenges and ultimately placing in the top 5. Alissa is currently a rookie on the NHL Tampa Bay Lightning Blue Crew, entertaining hockey fans at Amalie Arena during home games. She is a cast member on the upcoming NBC series, "Snake in the Grass", premiering in August.



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### **Cruise Ships (Guest Entertainer)**

Holland America Eurodam  
Holland America Oosterdam  
Holland America Nieuw Amsterdam  
Holland America Rotterdam  
Holland America Westerdam  
Norwegian Breakaway  
Norwegian Getaway  
Majestic Princess

### **Piano Bars**

Savannah Smiles, Savannah GA  
PLUS Dueling Pianos, Raleigh NC  
The Red Piano, Santa Barbara CA  
Point Street Dueling Pianos, Providence RI  
Treble Makers, Wesley Chapel FL  
Showbar Ybor, Tampa FL  
Mickey's, Fort Lauderdale FL  
Shenanigans Dueling Pianos, Newport RI  
Bar9, New York, NY  
Zaboo, Manchester NH  
Daytona's, Port Orange FL  
Jewel, Orlando FL

### **Restaurants & Lounges**

Mastro's Ocean Club, Boston MA  
Mastro's Manhattan, New York NY  
Jacob Wirth, Boston MA  
Ocean Prime, Boston MA  
Chart House, Boston MA  
Seasons 52, Burlington MA  
Seasons 52, Chestnut Hill MA  
Rooftop Providence G, Providence RI  
Bill's West Side Bar, New York NY  
The Wharf Pub, Newport RI  
Saltwater Restaurant, Newport RI  
The Harbour Restaurant, Mystic CT

### **Hotels & Resorts**

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Boston MA  
The Ritz Carlton, Boston MA  
The Seaport Hotel, Boston MA  
The Fairmont Copley Hotel, Boston MA  
Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston MA  
Omni Parker Hotel, Boston MA  
The Boston Harbor Hotel, Boston MA  
Four Seasons Boston, Boston MA  
Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor, Boston MA  
The Envoy Hotel, Boston MA  
AC Hotel by Marriott Boston, Medford MA  
Yotel, Boston MA  
DoubleTree North Shore, Danvers MA  
Patriot Renaissance Hotel, Foxboro MA  
Marriott, Burlington MA  
NYLO Hotel, Warwick RI  
The Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport RI  
Oceancliff, Newport RI  
Rosecliff, Newport RI  
The Atlantic Resort, Newport RI  
Downtown Marriott, Providence RI  
Omni Parker Hotel, Providence RI  
Glen Manor House, Middletown RI

### **Concert Venues**

Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Lowell MA  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence RI  
RI Convention Center, Providence RI  
Hanover Theater, Worcester MA  
Hard Rock Cafe, Boston MA  
House of Blues, Boston MA  
Wang Theater, Boston MA  
Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City NJ  
Foxwoods Casino & Resort, Mashantucket CT  
Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville CT  
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston MA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA



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As featured in



## Reviews

"Alissa describes herself as somewhat of an old soul, which is easily detected in her timeless sound. She delivers a song with an honesty that transcends trends, and genres."

**Country 102.5**

"Her rich interplay of piano and vocals recalls Elton John, with a little of that balladeer influence from Springsteen coming through in her wonderfully soulful musical journey."

**JustLuxe**

"Jazzy-Folk Songwriting Genius, Alissa Musto Sings Her Heart Out on "Hiding Away"... Her smooth vocals float beautifully over tasteful piano chords and riffs."

**Rock the Pigeon Music Blog**

"In the end, it's clear after a few (dozen) listens to What We Saw From the Piano Bar that Alissa Musto is a young performer you absolutely owe it to yourself to get to know. She has a unique mix of talent and persona, a certain je ne sais quoi that makes her stand out in a musical crowd."

**Geoff Wilbur, Music Blogger**

## References

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