

Tino Cardenes is a 19-year-old pianist, composer, and producer studying Music Technology at CMU. Whether on stage or behind the camera, he strives to make the musical experience fun, equitable, and accessible to all. With the project Music for Good, he provided music education to children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn an instrument and hopes that this project will continue to foster their love of music for years to come. In 2020, he co-launched a porch concert series to build community during the pandemic, support local musicians, and contribute to city music programs. Tino was the collaborative pianist for Beethoven in the Face of Adversity – a project that brought concerts to people facing adversity who could otherwise not experience live music. This project spanned 50 performances and 3 countries over the course of 250 days, culminating in a performance at Carnegie Music Hall.

Tino made his concerto debut in Gelsenkirchen, Germany at age 7, playing with the Neuephilharmonie Westfalen. He won first place in the Cleveland Institute of Music Piano Four Hands competition, attended Interlochen Arts Camp, and holds the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. He has also played concerts with Dave Eggar, Paquito D’Rivera, and Eric DeFade. Tino is a member of the Trio Con Brio, for whom he arranges much of the repertoire, with his mother, Monique Mead (violin), and sister, Isabel Cardenes (harp).

Tino is trained both classically and jazzily and enjoys exploring the intersection of the sciences and music. He created projects such as Eurorack-112, a digital modular synthesizer that is played in the style of a platformer game. He is also passionate about computer science and visual storytelling and hopes that in all the coming years, he can continue to bring joy to those around him through music and film.