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Brenda Earle Stokes is available for interview at this time.

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Brenda Earle Stokes
piano, voice, Rhodes, triangle

Matt Aronoff
bass

Jordan Perlson
drums

Steve Cardenas
guitar (1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11)

Joel Frahm
saxophone (1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12)

Produced by **Matt Pierson**

Recorded and mixed
by **Chris Allen**
at **Sear Sound, NYC**

Erika Kapin
Photography

Chantal Fishzang
Album design



Pianist/Vocalist Brenda Earle Stokes releases new recording

After the successful launch of her 2009 recording "Songs for A New Day", Brenda returns with her new project, "Right About Now", featuring a new band and a new perspective.

Earle's keyboard work throughout embodies lyrical melody, deft harmonies and smart pacing.

The Toronto Star

www.brendaearle.com



"My life changed dramatically over the course of the last couple of years. I got married, I had a child and the relationship to my music was changing. I was hearing a lot of sounds in my head and I was waiting for the right moment to dive back in." The right moment happened when she saw a Facebook post about producer Matt Pierson. "After a quick phone call, he came down to a show and that was it." Six weeks later, they were in the studio with a band that included longtime friend and collaborator Joel Frahm and guitarist Steve Cardenas, whom she met for the first time in the studio. Former Manhattan School of Music classmate, bassist Matt Aronoff and drummer Jordan Perlson round out the band.

"Matt and Jordan and I were the back up band for Amy Cervini's Duets show at the 55 Bar. After playing two sets together, we looked at each other and were like 'Wow – nice band.' Matt Pierson called them a few days later and brought them on board."

The track list includes original songs composed in the midst of huge life changes.

"The Birthday Song" was written on my 33rd

birthday, as I was feeling a new found sense of peace and self assurance." In September tells the tale of lovers whose romance begins and ends with the summer, inspired by summers spent on the beach in Breezy Point, NY. "The Letters on the Pages" shares the experience of watching a friend struggle with mental illness. Baiao Em Minha Cabeca and She Sings are both wordless compositions, which explore the harmony and rhythm of Brazil.

"...the first to stand out was pianist-singer Brenda Earle, whose talent gracefully bridges jazz and pop."

Washington Post

Dick Oatt's "Meant For You" is given a lyric by Brenda. "Dick and I played together a few times over the years and this song always stuck with me. He invited me to write a lyric, which I based on my new found feeling of true love." Brenda also creates a new lyric to Egberto Gismonti's heart breaking "Agua E Vinho".

A fresh take to Cole Porter's "Everything I Love" shows Brenda's roots as a jazz pianist. New sounds are given to a delicate-then-funky rendition of "Let My Love Open the Door" by Pete Townshend and Joe Jackson's "Got the Time." "Growing up, I listened to the Anthrax version of Got the Time (from Persistence of time), not realizing it was a Joe Jackson tune!" The title cut "Right About Now" was composed by fellow Canadian uber-singer/songwriter Ron Sexsmith from his Whereabouts album.

B R E N D A E A R L E S T O K E S R I G H T A B O U T N O W

A true triple-threat, Brenda Earle Stokes pivots seamlessly from vocalist to pianist to composer, as she leads a band of top notch New York jazz musicians.

Right About Now features six of Brenda's original compositions, new lyrics to compositions by Village Vanguard lead alto saxophonist Dick Oatts and Brazilian legend Egberto Gismonti as well as unexpected takes on songs by Joe Jackson and Pete Townshend.

Brenda's expressive vocals are framed by virtuosic piano chops and explore a range of genre-bending grooves rooted in modern jazz.

"...a breezy delight."

Time Out New York

About Brenda Earle Stokes

A native of a small town in Southwestern Ontario, Brenda grew up listening to her father's old 45s which consisted of everything from Little Richard to Twisted Sister. "Looking back, I realize just how random all of that music was in relation to each other. To me, it seemed normal to hear all of these different sounds together." I think this is the underpinning of what my ears tell me to create. I am inspired by such a variety of different sounds.

A brief introduction to Oscar Peterson in high school led Brenda to abandon her classical piano studies and delve into jazz head on. Upon graduation, she head to Toronto to pursue studies at York University, where she crossed paths with her idol. "Oscar would come to our performances and drop in a few times a year to give lectures. At one point, I found myself sitting on a piano bench next to him playing Tenderly. To say it was life altering would be an understatement."

Brenda's career has taken her all over the world from the Caribbean to New Zealand and across Canada and the United States. She has performed with John Riley, Luis Bonilla, Dick Oatts, Donny McCaslin, Joel Frahm, Wycliffe Gordon, the DIVA Jazz Orchestra and legendary performer Maurice Hines.



Brenda Earle Stokes is proud to be a Canadian artist