



Brenda Earle Stokes, BFA, M.Mus.

Pianist. Vocalist. Composer. Educator

www.brendaearle.com

www.pianoandvoicewithbrenda.com

Brenda Earle Stokes is a pianist, vocalist and composer based in NYC. A natural multitasker, Stokes has fused a passion for the piano and a love of singing into a vibrant career that crosses genres organically. Although her playing is rooted in the history of jazz from Bill Evans to Bud Powell, she draws inspiration from Brazilian music, musical theater as well as pop artists Carole King and Elvis Costello. Her unique brand of humor and honesty, mixed with her virtuosic piano and fluid vocal chops make her a favorite among audiences.

A native of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, Brenda's career has taken her across Canada and US, and internationally performing at venues like the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the Toronto Jazz festival, Avery Fischer Hall and the Christchurch Arts Festival in New Zealand. In addition to an active performing career, Brenda is widely known as a top voice and piano teacher in New York City. She has given workshops and masterclasses and guest conducted across the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Brenda has performed with a huge array of performers including Wycliffe Gordon, Dick Oatts, Joel Frahm, David Liebman, the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, Ann Hampton Calloway and Maurice Hines. She has toured internationally and performed at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fischer Hall, the Christchurch Arts Festival (New Zealand), the Toronto Jazz Festival and at jazz clubs across Canada, the US, New Zealand and Australia. She has released four critically-acclaimed CDs as a leader, which feature her original compositions.

For her most recent release ***Right About Now***, Brenda partnered with legendary producer Matt Pierson on a project that fused her own compositions with jazz standards and few rewrites of pop songs by Pete Townshend and Canadian songwriting legend Ron Sexsmith. ***Right About Now*** was Brenda's most sophisticated project to date and it showed a true connection between her work as a composer/arranger and as a player.

Having slowed down her touring schedule over the past several years since her son was born, Brenda is starting to amp up her performing life once again. “It felt right to cut back on my performing life so I could enjoy being around my family, but now feels very much like the right time to be back in the game.” On the agenda for this year is preparing to record her sixth album – a full return to her jazz roots and her first trio offering. She is also working to launch a completely new project that will offer her unique teaching skills to a wider international audience.

“...a breezy delight.”
-Time Out New York