

Brenda Earle Stokes is a rare jazz artist with a true command of both the piano and the voice. As a follow-up to her critically acclaimed 2014 studio album *Right About Now*, Stokes sought to challenge herself to dig deep and share the full scope of her talents in the most intimate setting possible. In her latest album *Solo Sessions Volume 1*, Brenda explores the rarely-recorded format of solo piano/voice, showcasing her mesmerizing fluidity as both singer and pianist. Recorded in a single four-hour session in her hometown of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, Brenda explores a wide spectrum of material, including jazz standards, original compositions and seldom-heard compositions by Dave Brubeck and Steve Swallow. She rounds out the recording with lush jazz arrangements of songs recorded by k.d. lang, Michael McDonald and Huey Lewis, showing the full range of her musical curiosities.

Brenda Earle Stokes is a surprisingly multifaceted musician, known for her work as a pianist, singer and composer. She has performed as a sideman with John Riley, Dick Oatts, Joel Frahm, Roxy Coss, Wycliffe Gordon, Maurice Hines and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra. She has held residencies at the Kennedy Center and Banff Center for Fine Arts, was a finalist of the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Piano Competition and was a winner of the IAJE Sister's in Jazz competition, identifying her as one of the top emerging jazz artists of her generation. As a bandleader she has toured clubs and festivals across the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia and has released 6 albums on her own label.

Brenda Earle Stokes' musical curiosity has led her to professional work as a choral conductor, classical vocalist, church organist, off Broadway music director, early childhood music teacher and cruise ship piano bar entertainer. These seemingly unrelated musical experiences have helped develop her versatility and fluency as both pianist and vocalist. "While jazz is my first love, I feel passionate about making music in many different realms. Each musical experience influences what is available to me in my own performance life."

In addition to her life as performer and composer, Brenda is active as an educator, serving on the faculty of Fordham University, running a busy private studio in New York City, and working as a guest clinician, adjudicator and speaker. She has taught for the Midori and Friends Foundation, developed curricula for the New York Pops Orchestra and arranged music and taught for the Grammy-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Her online courses [Piano Skills for Singers](#) have hundreds of students worldwide.