

BRENDA EARLE STOKES

SOLO SESSIONS VOLUME 1

Release Date: November 15, 2019

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 George Shearing 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 side person with John Riley, Luis Bonilla, Dick Oatts, Bobby Sanabria, Joel Frahm, Roxy Coss, Wycliffe Gordon, Maurice Hines and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra. She has held residencies at the Kennedy Center and Banff Centre, was a finalist of the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Piano Competition and she 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 5 albums under her own name.

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 composer/arranger of



Brenda Earle Stokes - piano and voice

TRACK LIST

1. IF YOU NEVER COME TO ME 4:34 V. De Moraes, G. Ray, A. C. Jobim
2. STANDING 4:06 Brenda Earle Stokes
3. WEAVER OF DREAMS 4:47 J. Elliot, V. Young
4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF FALLING 5:06 D'Ubaldo, Nowels, Jr, Steinberg
5. HOW LONG HAS THAT EVENING TRAIN BEEN GONE? 5:02 L. Carr
6. LADIES IN MERCEDES 4:16 S. Swallow, N. Winstone
7. I CAN LET GO NOW 4:12 M. McDonald
8. STRANGE MEADOWLARK 5:53 D. Brubeck, I. Brubeck
9. THE POWER OF LOVE 4:18 J. V. Colla, C. J. Hayes, H. Lewis
10. THE WALTZ 4:34 C. Tamburr, lyrics by Brenda Earle Stokes
11. EAST OF THE SUN (WEST OF THE MOON) 4:30 B. Bowman

TOTAL TIME 51:17

Recorded June 28, 2019 at the Sarnia Public Library in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. All arrangements by Brenda Earle Stokes (Allsheneeds Music/SOCAN).
Produced by Brenda Earle Stokes
Engineered, Mixed and Mastered by Adam Miner



over 100 works for chorus. This wide range of musical experiences have led to a range of nuanced touches that are displayed throughout her harmonic and rhythmic explorations. Brenda is sought after as an educator, running a busy private studio in New York City, serving on the faculty of Fordham University and functioning as a guest clinician around the world. She is active in outreach and activism, having created programs for the Midori and Friends foundation, The New York Pops and holding a ten-year residency at the Ronald McDonald House. Brenda is an active member of *WIJO - the Women in Jazz Organization*, helping to represent and empower women in the wider jazz community.

No matter how far wide her genre-bending influences reach, Brenda is always centered in the historical richness of the jazz tradition. *Solo Sessions Volume 1* truly establishes **Brenda Earle Stokes** as a notable voice in the jazz world and certainly deserving of wider recognition.

MEDIA LINKS

Website:

www.brendaearle.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/brendaearlestokes>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@brendaestokes>

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/brendaearlestokes>

Spotify:

<http://bit.ly/brendaearlestokes>

Listen now at

<https://brendaearlestokes.bandcamp.com>

Contact:

brendaearle30@gmail.com
917-647-1295

WHAT THE PRESS IS SAYING

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

—The Toronto Star

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

—The Washington Post

"...a breezy delight."

—Time Out New York

For more information including photos, sound clips and videos visit

WWW.BRENDAEARLE.COM



Brenda Earle Stokes is proud to be a Canadian artist.