

Brenda Earle Stokes is a rare jazz artist with a true command of both the voice and the piano. Hailed as “a breezy delight” by Time Out New York, Brenda’s music is rooted in the jazz tradition with influences ranging from Brazilian music to rock radio. 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. 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.

Brenda Earle Stokes has performed as a side person 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.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

“Stokes revs up on eclecticism, centering her jazz improvisation and pop-jazz adventures... shimmers with energetic scatting and cheery piano” – *Downbeat Magazine*

“This music speaks to artistic sophistication while addressing the quiet comforts of the medium.” – *Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz*

“Absolutely stunning.” – *One World Music (UK)*

“The result is nothing short of outstanding with Brenda taking full control of her direction and creating a piece of contemporary jazz that is refined and seductive.” – *The Jazz Music Blog*

“When a recording is as fine as this, nothing is more welcome than seeing Volume 1 in the title.” – *C. Michael Bailey, All About Jazz*

“Here to play, not play around.” – *Chris Spector, Midwest Record*