



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. She is the rare musician who is as sought after for her performing skills as her teaching skills. Her career spans the globe from Canada to the US, to Australia and New Zealand, teaching at major institutions and performing at clubs and festivals. Her unique brand of humor and honesty, mixed with her virtuosic piano and voice chops make her a favorite among audiences. Her latest CD "Right About Now" received international airplay and critical acclaim.

Brenda started taking piano lessons at age 4, studying classically until her high school band director played her a recording of jazz piano legend Oscar Peterson. She was hooked. She attended York University in Toronto as a jazz piano major, where Oscar himself was Chancellor and a frequent guest teacher. She then made the move to NYC to do her Master's degree in jazz piano at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. Since then, she has been certified as a practitioner of Somatic Voicework™ The LoVetri Method, and she has taken courses in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College

As a private instructor, Brenda is in high demand teaching piano and voice, and working as a performance and songwriting coach. Sought after for her "great ears", Brenda works one on one with pop, rock and jazz singers and has a full studio of professional music theater singers working with them on developing their technical skills and coaching them on repertoire. Since she is a highly accomplished pianist, her students enjoy working with a "real pianist" at every lesson. Brenda teaches out of her

studio in NYC and works with students all over the world via Skype. Her students range in age from children to adults, from beginners to emerging artists and elite professionals. Each of her students appreciate her organized and direct approach, with skill developing that is customized based on their interests and needs. Brenda is a supportive educator, and her studio welcomes people of all backgrounds and abilities. Brenda has developed a unique method of piano teaching, which combines all of her training as both a classical and jazz pianist, to assist singers and songwriters to develop functional piano skills which complement their singing.

Brenda serves on the faculty of Fordham University, teaching voice, piano and musicianship. In 2018, Brenda presented her first four-day seminar at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba Australia, teaching an immersive course in jazz, pop and rock singing to professional singers and voice teachers from all over the continent. She has co-taught master teacher Jeanie LoVetri's course Somatic Voicework™ - The LoVetri Method in the US and Australia and has taught workshops at high schools and colleges across the US, Canada and New Zealand.

Brenda has also had a significant career as a chorister and choral conductor. She conducted two seasons with the Rutgers University Queen's Chorale, spent eight summers conducting the New York Summer Music Festival Jazz Choir and even spent five years and leads her own voices and jazz ensemble the Sacred Voices Project, which features her original settings of sacred text. Brenda has adjudicated at several choral and vocal music festivals and was recently the guest conductor of the Suffolk County area all-State Middle School Jazz Chorus. She has composed and arranged hundreds of works for chorus and small and large jazz ensembles.

Brenda is a passionate and inspiring teacher, who combines her upbeat energy with an organized approach to teaching. Always focused on the student(s) in front of her, she is able to easily engage with her students and discover exactly what skills they need to succeed.