

## BIO

### **Linda Presgrave** **Jazz Pianist, Composer, Arranger,** **Metropolitan Records Recording Artist**

*"She (Linda Presgrave) has the potential to make a major impact on the jazz world, with the highly enjoyable and creative music of Inspiration inspiring other musicians to develop their own voices."* ~**Scott Yanow – Jazz author**

*"She (Linda Presgrave) tells beautiful stories in the music she writes."*  
**John Stubblefield (Saxophonist)**

*"With her lyrical playing and a stellar ensemble, Presgrave adeptly mines the secular and spiritual side of the music while paying homage to her heroines."*  
~**Terrell Holmes - All About Jazz/New York**

**Linda Presgrave**, jazz pianist, composer, and arranger, relocated to New York City in 1998 leaving a very active music career in her native city of St. Louis. Since that time, she has recorded five (5) CDs on the **METROPOLITAN RECORDS** label including *Along the Path, Inspiration, The Journey, The Linda Presgrave Quartet – LIVE and In Your Eyes* along with being a featured artist on the label's compilation recordings - *A Jazz Christmas: That Special Time of Year, Ballads in Jazz, Running With Jazz and Blues in Jazz*.

All of Linda's jazz recordings as a leader on Metropolitan Records as well as the label's compilations include her original jazz compositions. She is dedicated to helping keep jazz a viable living cultural art form by composing music that is very accessible to the public.

Linda's third recording, ***The Journey***, serves as the beginning of her personal discovery and interest in the music of "inspirational jazz artists who happen to be women". One of her missions is to bring attention to little known jazz works by women. The works on this CD were recorded by Linda's working quartet (Stan Chovnick – soprano sax, Wei Sheng Lin – bass, Seiji Ochia- drums) along with famed jazz artists (Oliver Lake - alto saxophone and flute, Harvie S - bass Eric Allen – drums).

Linda was a featured artist on three different dates on the stage of the prestigious *JVC Jazz Festival, New York* as a part of the *International Women in Jazz Festival Special Event Concert* with *The Linda Presgrave Quartet*, as a member of the *International Women in Jazz Ensemble* and as a member of the *International Women in Jazz All-Stars*.

Linda's European performance debut grew out of one of those JVC Jazz Festival performances. She was invited to perform as the pianist and as a composer with Ritmi E Voci Dell'International Women in Jazz, New York in Frascati, Italy as a part of the festival ControCanto:Donne in Jazz sponsored by Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica. Linda was invited back to Italy to perform on the same concert series three more times with her own group, The Linda Presgrave Quartet, at Scuderie Aldobrandini (Frascati), the University of Rome (Rome) and also at Casa Internazionale delle Donne (Rome). As a result of these performances with Donne in Musica, Linda was invited to perform on the Gala Concert: A Celebration of Women in Music at the first ever World Forum on Music in Los Angeles. Her performance in Los Angeles led to another invitation – this time to perform in Europe once again as a featured jazz artist on the VI. FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALDE MUSIQUE EN CATALOGNE which took place at Place Picasso in Céret, France and an additional concert in Le Boulou, France.

Linda continues to appear on many of New York's most prestigious jazz festivals, stages and venues with her own group and also as a member of other jazz combos and ensembles. Previous past performances include Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at the famed Jazz at Lincoln Center, the IRIDIUM Jazz Club, KITANO Jazz, Women in Jazz Festival at Saint Peter's (aka as the "Jazz Church"), Sweet Rhythm, Flushing Town Hall, Cornelia Street Café, Club Bonafide, Detour, TOMI Jazz and the Uptown Lounge at Minton's to name a few. Some of the notable venues outside of New York where Linda has appeared are Jazz at the Bistro (St. Louis), Cookie's Jazz and More (St. Louis), Just Jazz (St. Louis), Jazz at Holmes Series - Washington University (St. Louis), Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) with the Astoria Big Band, Nighttown (Cleveland, OH), Many Colors of a Woman Jazz Festival (Hartford, CT) and the Webster University Jazz Series (St. Louis, MO).

Linda has devoted her life to music and music education. Even though she now focuses her talents only on performing jazz piano, she continues to educate the public with her concerts and recordings that introduce the audience and listeners to music by great jazz artists who happen to be women. In fact, two of her CDs, "The Journey" and "Inspiration", feature only music by women. "Inspiration" was also named as one of the top 10 jazz CDs of the year 2009 by "Something Else". 2015 marked the release of "Along the Path" and features her most recent original compositions. Linda's compositions incorporate jazz and world music into her own unique style.

When not performing with her own group, Linda also serves as the pianist in Carol Sudhalter's *Astoria Big Band* which was featured on the acclaimed *Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival* at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and performs regularly with "Ladies Day" a jazz ensemble featuring vocalist MJ Territo, bassist Iris Orinig and drummer Barbara Merjan.

Before arriving on the New York jazz scene, Linda performed with her own group, *After Six Jazz*, at the finest jazz venues in St. Louis including *Jazz at the Bistro* and *Just Jazz*. At the same time, she worked with the *Sessions Big Band*, the *Modern*

*Vintage Jazz Quartet* and the *Kim Portnoy Jazz Orchestra*. As a former professional French Horn player, she performed regularly at the MUNY, FOX and RIVERPORT (St. Louis, MO) theaters in orchestral settings behind top entertainers, world class ballet ensembles and national theatrical productions.

As an educator Linda taught for many years at Washington University, as adjunct faculty, teaching French horn as well as jazz piano in the music department and also at various public and private schools in St. Louis including John Burroughs, Parkway School District and University City Schools. She also taught many students private lessons at the St. Louis Symphony Music School, CASA, Webster University, Fontbonne College and her own music studio. In 2011, she was named to the "Hall of Fame" in the Affton Education Foundation in St. Louis.