

Lynne Arriale Bio

"Lynne Arriale's music lies at the synaptic intersection where brain meets heart, where body meets soul. As a result, there's a directness, a purity, an unalloyed honesty that makes us listen and therefore "see" anew. She is one of jazzdom's most intensely unique voices." –*JazzTimes*

Pianist/composer Lynne Arriale's career is graced by a love of melody and a joy of musical discovery. With a style that is vibrant and hard-driving, yet lyrical and intimate, Arriale provides an exhilarating musical experience. The consummate storyteller, she immediately connects with her listeners through emotionally-charged performances. "She achieves a special, deep connection with her audience, and the energy flows both ways. Arriale's emotional authenticity allows her audience to feel and think along with her" (*JazzTimes*). Her music is accessible and intimate, "emanating a complexity created not by multiple layers of notes, but by multiple layers of emotion, capturing the imaginations of music lovers worldwide. There may be no jazz artist working today who brings a broader spectrum of musical ideas to the connection of mind and heart" (*Jazz Police*).

At the core of Arriale's appeal is her warmth, humor and ability to communicate with her band and listeners. "The poet laureate of her generation" (*Jazz Police*), her performances and recordings with her trio led to comparisons with the great trios of Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett, yet she has been consistently praised as having a "singular voice" as a pianist, leader, composer, and arranger. "I really can't compare her to anyone," said recent collaborator and multi-Grammy winner Randy Brecker. "Her music transcends the word 'jazz' – it is just pure music."

Arriale was the first prize winner of the 1993 International Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and soon launched her touring and recording career. A Motema recording artist since 2003, her 13 CDs as a leader have topped the Jazzweek Radio Charts; *Inspiration* and *Arise* reached #1 and *Come Together* #3, *Nuance* #4 and were included on numerous "Best Of" lists, including *The New Yorker* and *United Press International*. Her tenth trio recording, *LIVE* (CD/DVD) was named one of *UPI's* Best Jazz CDs and among *The New Yorker Magazine's* Best CDs of the year. *Solo* was named one of the top CDs of 2012 by *JAZZIZ* Magazine, and *Convergence* was named one of the top 50 CDs of 2011 by *JazzTimes*.

She has toured internationally for the past 20 years and was selected to substitute for Marian McPartland with the 100 Golden Fingers tour of Japan (Tommy Flanagan, Hank Jones, Monty Alexander, Cedar Walton, Kenny Barron, Harold Mabern, Roger Kellaway, Junior Mance and Ray Bryant). Arriale has performed and/or recorded with jazz icons Randy Brecker, George Mraz, Benny Golson, Rufus Reid and Marian McPartland, to name a few. Her international performances on concert and festival stages include the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Montreux, Burghausen, The Gilmore, Spoleto Arts, Montreal, Monterey, North Sea, Stuttgart, Pori, San Francisco, Ottawa, Zagreb, Perth, Brisbane, Rouen, Cannes MIDEM, Sardinia, Rochester, Wigan, Poznan, Estoril, Palermo, Inverness, Cork, and in Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa with full symphony orchestra. Her touring has taken her around the world to Brazil, Germany, Austria, Serbia, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Croatia, France, Belgium, The Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Australia, Japan, Spain, Portugal, South Africa, England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada and the US.

Arriale has been featured on the PBS *Profile of a Recording Artist* and on multiple NPR programs, including *Weekend Edition, Jazz Set*, (with Dee Dee Bridgewater and Branford Marsalis), *Piano Jazz* with Marion McPartland; and in *Billboard, Downbeat, JazzTimes, JAZZIZ, BBC Magazine*, and the *London Times*; and has been featured in cover stories for *JazzEd, One Way* and *M* Magazines. Her live media appearances include CNN/FN' Biz, NPR's Jazz Piano

Christmas – Live from The Kennedy Center, and radio/TV interviews throughout the U.S., U.K., and Europe, including the BBC, Radio France and German National Television.

A devoted educator and Yamaha artist, Lynne Arriale is currently Associate Professor of Jazz Studies and Director of Small Ensembles at The University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She has served as a faculty member of the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops, the Centrum Port Townsend Jazz Workshop, the Thelonious Monk Institute in Aspen and numerous clinics and workshops worldwide, including the US, UK, Europe, Canada, Brazil and South Africa. She is a member and piano pedagogy representative of The Jazz Education Network and has adjudicated the Montreux Jazz Competition, American Pianists Association Fellowship Awards, The Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Competition and the Jacksonville Piano Competition. With jazz icon Toshiko Akiyoshi, she was a featured mentor at The Mary Lou Williams Emerging Artist Workshop at the Kennedy Center.

Arriale's affinity for music and specifically the piano was evident early on, but well outside a jazz context. Adopted as an infant, she grew up in Milwaukee and was given a plastic toy piano at age 3. Playing by ear, she soon had a repertoire of songs that she had learned from the radio and records, mostly from Broadway musicals. Throughout her school and college years, she studied classical music, earning a master's degree before turning to jazz. "Discovering the unlimited creative potential and artistic freedom in jazz changed my life," said Arriale.

Later she learned that her biological mother was a jazz vocalist; perhaps there is something to heredity, given her reverence for songful melodies. Motema founder Jana Herzen refers to Lynne's "singer's-like" ability to connect with an audience... "Though she played the piano and not a sound came from her lips, I had the distinct impression I was listening to a singer."

Arriale always sings when she is practicing and composing. "I have found that the key to expressive playing and truly spontaneous improvisation is singing," says Arriale. "I focus on the melody regardless of where spontaneous improvisation takes me. I search for the 'heart' of the song, find what makes it special to me and use it as musical inspiration. It is very important to me that my music has a vocal quality and a heart connection. It's a lifelong process to teach my fingers how to sing."

"Lynne Arriale's remarkable career is graced by a rare commitment to authenticity and vulnerability defined by careful craft and high artistic standards. It is precisely this willingness to remain so emotionally exposed that makes her performances so accessible to music lovers of all kinds" (*All About Jazz*).