

Debbie Poryes New Philly Trio

With Dave Brodie, bass and Kyle Andrews, drums

A natural born musician, Debbie took to the piano at five years old, playing show tunes and studying classical music. Hearing Monk and Miles as a teenager, she fell in love with jazz and decided to become a jazz pianist.

Debbie has played all over the San Francisco Bay Area, including at Yoshi's Jazzclub, the Berkeley Jazzschool, the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, Piedmont Piano Company, and 6 years as house pianist for Pican Restaurant in Oakland. The 1980s saw Debbie in The Netherlands, in tenured positions teaching jazz at conservatories in Hilversum and Arnhem. She also toured Europe, performing at clubs and in festivals in The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, England and France. While abroad, she recorded a trio LP for Timeless Records and worked as an accompanist and arranger for numerous singers.

Since 2007 she has recorded and released four CDs: A Song in Jazz, Catch Your Breath, Two and Fro, and Loving Hank. All four recordings have received outstanding reviews and sold copies across the country as well as in Japan, Australia, and England. Downbeat gave Loving Hank a 4-star review, included it on its list of notable CDs for 2018, and wrote, "Debbie Poryes is a consistently inventive, talented modern mainstream jazz pianist who sounds very much like herself." Jazz Chicago wrote, "Poryes's playing is confident, yet playful, thoughtful, but full of life," and All About Jazz said, "Poryes colors outside the lines and plays to challenge and compel, but never forgets to entertain." Renowned jazz critic Herb Wong said, "Impressive, too, is how her swinging joyousness articulates every note she plays." And All Music Guide calls Debbie's playing, "infectious, dramatic, spirited and shimmering." The recordings contain Debbie's own compositions as well as unique arrangements of standards and other jazz tunes. All her recordings can be streamed through Apple Music, Spotify, et al.

Debbie maintains a fulltime private teaching practice. She taught for 20 years at the Berkeley Jazzschool, many summers at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, and she has given presentations to groups, including the California Teachers' Association, and the Golandsky Institute. She felt the call to teach early in her career and continues to adore helping students to understand jazz and further their own playing. Her students enjoy her sunny personality, her organization, and sense of humor.

Debbie continues to study the Taubman Approach to piano technique with her classical teacher John Bloomfield in New York and to pass it along to her grateful students. Wrist pain in her 30s turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it led her to study this body of knowledge and taught her how to create a beautiful sound at the piano.

In the summer of 2018 Debbie moved to Philadelphia. Her husband Tony Fels retired from his teaching job at the University of San Francisco and they, along with their daughter, returned to his hometown. Now she is introducing the Debbie Poryes New Philly Trio with Dave Brodie on bass and Kyle Andrews on drums!

For more information, visit www.debbieporyes.com