

# ROBERTA PIKET

*"An extremely talented young pianist. I predict she'll go far as a jazz pianist and composer." - Marian McPartland*

Roberta Piket has played professionally as a sidewoman with David Liebman, Rufus Reid, Lionel Hampton, Michael Formanek, Mickey Roker, Benny Golson, Billy Mintz, and the BMI/NY Jazz Orchestra and has twice been a featured guest on *Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz*, on National Public Radio. It is in her trio work, however, that the depth of Roberta's talent as a pianist and composer becomes most evident.

A gifted composer, Roberta has been a finalist in the *Thelonious Monk-BMI Composers' Competition*. In 2006 she was an associate artist in residence at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, where she worked with master artist Sam Rivers.

Roberta's trio has toured Japan and Spain as well as the U.S. She has performed her music at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at the Earshot Festival in Seattle, at the Rochester (NY) Jazz Festival, and in New York at Small's, the Blue Note Club, Birdland, the Knitting Factory and Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Roberta's CDs frequently make the "best of" lists of the major jazz magazines. Whether performing her original compositions or highly personalized reworkings of standards, Roberta's daring rhythmic modulations and vast harmonic expansiveness set a new standard for the piano trio. *September of Tears*, released in Japan, finds Roberta joining forces with Rufus Reid and Billy Hart for an adventurous program of originals and reworked standards. The recent release, *Love and Beauty*, features the virtuosic gifts of bassist Ratzon Harris and drummer Billy Mintz. During its three-year incarnation, this working group toured the West coast three times and performed regularly in New York. A

confessed "closet singer", Roberta also makes her vocal debut on *Love and Beauty*.

Roberta's Nabokov Project sets five poems by Vladimir Nabokov to music for piano, violin, mezzo-soprano with percussion, and speaker. It blends neo-classical harmonic concepts with lush melodies and free improvisational sections.

*"Constantly curious, she has released a series of recordings probing across the landscape from retro-mainstream to free jazz." - Don Heckman, LA Times*

Roberta maintains an active schedule as an educator. She has held master classes at the **Eastman School of Music** (where she performed solo and in duo with Marian McPartland), **Rutgers University**, **Cal Arts**, **Duke University**, **Northwestern University**, and many others throughout the world. She has coached ensembles at Long Island University, has several private students, and has taught at the Litchfield Jazz Camp and the Vermont Jazz Center. She is also the author of the *Jazz Piano Vocabulary* series of workbooks (Muse-Eek Publishing).

Roberta occasionally performs on B3 organ, playing at clubs such as Harlem's Showman's. She has also written several big band compositions, three of which are in the repertoire of the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra. In recent years she has performed and recorded with some of Europe's finest creative musicians, including drummer Klaus Kugel, saxophonists Roby Glod, Petras Vysniauskas and Yuri Yaremchuk, and bassist Mark Tokar.

## Selected Discography

### *As a leader:*

Roberta Piket Trio *Love and Beauty* (Thirteenth Note Records, 2007) (feat. Billy Mintz and Ratzon Harris)  
 Roberta Piket & Alternating Current *I'm Back In Therapy And It's All Your Fault* (Thirteenth Note Records, 2003)  
 Roberta Piket Trio *September of Tears* (Meldac, 2002) (feat. Rufus Reid and Billy Hart) (Japan import)  
 Roberta Piket Trio *Midnight In Manhattan* (Meldac, 2001) (Japan import)  
 Roberta Piket *Speak, Memory* (Fresh Sound, 2000) ("Ten best of 2000" -*JazzIz*)  
 Roberta Piket Trio *Live at the Blue Note* (Half Note, 1999) ("Five Best of 1999" -*JazzTimes*; "\*\*\*\*\*" - *downbeat*)  
 Roberta Piket *Unbroken Line* (Criss Cross, 1997)

### *Cooperatively:*

Five Spot (SoLyd Records, 2009) (Petras Vysniauskas, soprano sax; Y. Yaremchuk, reeds; M. Tokar, bass; Klaus Kugel, drums)  
 Fragments (Eric km Clarke, violin; Scott Hill, clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax) (Tonehole Music, 2005)  
 Mark Reboul, Billy Mintz, Roberta Piket *Seven Pieces, About an Hour* (2005)  
 Sharp Five *Intersect* (Consensus, 1999)

### *As a sidewoman:*

Yuko Kimura *A Beautiful Friendship* (2009) (Cameron Brown, bass; Gene Jackson, drums)  
 Glen White *Sacred Machines* (2008) (Jamie Baum, alto flute; Glenn White, tenor sax; Gary Wang, bass; Jeff Hirshfield, drums)  
 Bill Warfield Big Band *A Faceless Place* (2005)  
 Jamie Began Big Band *Trance* (2003)  
 Joe Phillips *Numinous* (2003)  
 Jamie Baum *Sight Unheard* (1997) GM Recordings (feat. Dave Douglas, J. Hirshfield, Drew Gress, Kenny Werner)  
 Lionel Hampton *For the Love of Music* (Mojazz Records, 1995) (feat. Wallace Roney, Ron Carter, Roy Haynes)

## Publications

*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 1: The Major Scale* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2003)  
*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 2: The Dorian Mode* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2003)  
*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 3: The Phrygian Mode* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2004)  
*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 4: The Lydian Mode* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2004)  
*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 5: The Mixolydian Mode* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2004)  
*Jazz Piano Vocabulary Volume 6: The Aeolian Mode* (Muse-Eek Publishing, 2007)