

HEATHER PIERSON



(Photo: Ray MacGregor)

"Heather is like two great acts in one, sliding from sweet acoustic Appalachian old-timey vibe with Patty Griffinesque lyrics to brassy New Orleans blues piano with a bone thrown to Bessie Smith."

DC Bloom | Lone Star Music Magazine

"There's a real pureness to her voice as she leads us through intimate corners of her experiences and tells stories with a Joni Mitchell kind of edge... Her hands float on and above the piano keys with the ease of a longtime player; it's as if it's as second nature as breathing."

-Aimsel Ponti | Portland Press Herald

"Heather is a real triple threat, with great vocals, outstanding instrumental prowess, and stellar songwriting."

Don Baker | Acoustic Journeys | Asheville, NC

HEATHER PIERSON - HONEST, HEARTFELT, SOULFUL

Heather Pierson is an award-winning pianist, singer/songwriter and performer whose inspiring live performances and growing catalog of releases delve into Americana, blues, New Orleans jazz, vocal chants, instrumental piano, and poignant folk. She is best known for her virtuosity at the piano and her bell-tone vocals, and her songs and musicianship embody joy, honesty, and a desire to share from the heart. In 2018, she and fellow singer/songwriter Bernice Martin released a songbook and companion CD, *Heart Songs & Circle Songs*, which has found its way into the repertoire of church and hospice choirs all over the world. Work on Volume 2 of this project is already underway and planned for release in 2020. In the fall of 2017, Heather launched *Musical Meditations*, an online library of improvised piano pieces for meditation and mindfulness, available for free download at her website. 2017 also saw the release of her acoustic trio's full-length debut, *Singin'*, which debuted at #1 on the Folk radio charts. Her twelfth CD release, *Lines and Spaces*, will be released on November 1, 2019, and promises to be Heather's most ambitious and most personal album to date.

After enjoying modest success with the release of several solo records (*Make It Mine* in 2010; *The Open Road* in 2012; *The Hard Work of Living* in 2013; *Motherless Child* in 2014), Heather burst upon the national folk scene in 2015 with her acoustic trio. The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio features Shawn Nadeau on upright bass and Davy Sturtevant on, as Heather often puts it from stage, "everything else" - guitar, mandolin, dobro, fiddle, cornet. Davy Sturtevant is a sideman extraordinaire and an accomplished singer/songwriter of his own, wielding both an arsenal of stringed and brass instruments and a gorgeous tenor voice. With wit and flair, Davy performs in a way that moves listeners to tap their toes, nod their heads, and raise knowing eyebrows. Shawn Nadeau is a self-taught phenom who brings an unassuming rock-solid foundation and a keen awareness to every moment of every song, informed by over two decades of wildly varying musical performances, from punk rock to reggae to jazz. In their able hands, these three veteran musicians have catapulted Heather's live performances of her deep well of original music with intricate instrumental arrangements and stirring three-part vocal harmonies. The trio's debut EP, *Still She Will Fly*, was released in May 2015, and its title track was the #2 single on the Folk radio charts for the year in 2015, and three other songs were also in the Top 100 singles on Folk radio in 2015. The trio's full-length debut, *Singin'*, was released on June 30, 2017, the tenth release on Heather's own record label, Vessel Recordings, and debuted at #1 on the Folk radio charts.

Heather also leads her own jazz trio, with Shawn Nadeau on bass and Craig Bryan on drums, performing her equal parts New Orleans-Oscar-Brubeck jazz piano leanings for audiences all over the Northeast. The jazz trio performs a rich variety of Heather's originals, jazz and blues standards, and unique reworkings of familiar American music. They are best known for their annual Charlie Brown Christmas tour, wherein they present their interpretations of the work of the late great jazz pianist and composer Vince Guaraldi.

Throughout her colorful career, her eclectic skill set continues to propel her onto concert hall stages and into barrooms, coffeehouses, resort hotels, living rooms, and churches. Her nearly non-stop performance schedule (with over 200 shows a year) speaks of her tireless work ethic and endless devotion to her crafts. Defying genre and classification and yet fully embracing all musical styles, Heather is an artist who speaks the language of music in as many dialects as her abilities will allow. Her life's work, she says, is to share her love of music and her gratitude for life with others – one song, one heart, and one mind at a time.

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