Pianist/Composer/Educator

**Michele Rosewoman**

*"No other pianist-composer in jazz brings the music of the African diaspora together quite like Michele Rosewoman.*

*One of the most compelling inside-out pianists in jazz, Rosewoman combines a myriad of influences, including Herbie Hancock,*

*Cecil Taylor, and Thelonious Monk...In her playing and writing, Rosewoman is way past collecting influences.*

*Simply put, she's one of the most creative and fully realized jazz artists on the scene today”* CD NOW

For four decades, pianist/composer/educator **Michele Rosewoman** has expanded the horizons of jazz while remaining firmly rooted in tradition.  A fearless bandleader and mentor, many have cited that working with Rosewoman made an indelible mark on their artistic development as musicians, composers and bandleaders. Allowing all her major influences to shape her sound has led to original composites of full spectrum acoustic modern jazz, Cuban folklore & angular funk.

To date, Ms. Rosewoman has released 9 recordings as a leader on Blue Note, Enja, SoulNote, Toshiba-EMI and her own label, Advance Dance Disques. Her long-standing **Quintessence** ensemble (with 5 highly acclaimed releases to date) has consistently brought together the most inventive voices in jazz (Steve Coleman, Greg Osby, Gary Thomas, Miguel Zenon, Steve Lehman, Steve Wilson, Mark Shim; Robin Eubanks, Lonnie Plaxico, Brad Jones, Terri Lyne Carrington, Tyshawn Sorey, Liberty Ellman). Her **New Yor-Uba** ensemble, which debuted at NYC's Public Theatre in 1983, presents an uncompromised synthesis of contemporary jazz and traditional Cuban folkloric music, uniting master musicians from both worlds**.**

Having celebrated 30 years with a 2013 double disc release that garnered the #1 NPR Latin Jazz recording of the year award, New Yor-Uba celebrated 35 years of evolution with the 2019 debut release of “Hallowed”– a ground-breaking project that  earned stellar reviews in major publications including JazzTimes, JazzIz, Downbeat and #3 NPR Latin Jazz Recording of the Year.

Background

Born in Oakland CA, Michele Rosewoman began playing piano at age 6 and was deeply influenced by the great jazz pianist/organist Ed Kelly.  Early studies in percussion and Cuban folklore profoundly impacted her approach as a pianist and composer.

Rosewoman moved to New York in 1978 and has performed with many renowned New York-based jazz and Latin artists including Julian Priester, Jimmy Heath, Billy Harper, Julius Hemphill, Baikida Carroll, Oliver Lake, Rufus Reid, Reggie Workman, Freddie Waits, Gary Bartz, James Spaulding, Billy Hart, Carlos Ward, Billy Bang, Celia Cruz, Paquito D’Rivera, Chocolate, Orlando 'Puntilla' Rios, Roman Diaz, Daniel Ponce, Pedrito Martinez, Nicky Marrero, Andy Gonzales and many others.

Her innovative projects have received critical acclaim and prestigious grants–most recently, **a 2025 Mellon Foundation Jazz Legacies Fellowship**, Other highlights include major support from the National Endowment for the Arts (1983) giving birth to her New Yor-Uba ensemble, and an ASCAP/Meet the Composer Commission for Emerging Composers (1984) awarded by Dizzy Gillespie, Marian McPartland and Lester Bowie. This award culminated in a new work premiered by the 40-piece Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra plus quintet of improvisers at the Cooper Union Great Hall, NYC and the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill, NY.  Over the years, Rosewoman received Chamber Music America New Works Creation and Presentation Commissions (2015, 2008, 2006, 2003), 2020 Jazz Coalition and Mutual Mentorship for Musicians commissions and a 2021 South Arts Jazz Roads Residency Grant which gave birth to a multi-faceted project, "A Function at The Junction: Ancestral Bridge, Musical Streams.  In 2016, Rosewoman became a Latin Jazz Grammy Winner as pianist and composer for her creative contribution to Arturo O'Farrill's ALJO release, "Cuba, the Conversation Continues.”

Ms. Rosewoman has presented her various ensembles at jazz festivals, concert halls, clubs and universities throughout the world. She remains an active and dedicated educator, conducting intensive workshops and residencies in a variety of settings. She teaches piano and composition privately, is a former board member at Chamber Music America, has held past positions at NYU and the New School, and currently serves on faculty at The New School and The Jazz House Kids program  in Montclair, NJ, teaching theory, piano, composition and ensemble

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