

Artist Overview – copy-ready

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Artist: Steve Snelling

Instrument: Piano and Voice

Sounds Like: Chet Baker meets Bill Evans – or – Mose Allison meets Paul Simon

Websites: www.SteveSnelling.com, www.Dharmajazz.com

Background

A life-long musician, Steve began playing piano at age three. Enduring the knuckle-rapping disciplines of his first childhood piano teacher, Steve was later inspired to jazz music as a young teenager by the great Portland pianist and educator, Mary Field. Mary introduced Steve to the music and disciplines of Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Carmen McRae and others, and her influence shows through to the present day in Steve's efforts to follow his early teacher's credo of artistic authenticity, honesty, and a steadfast commitment to disciplined practice.

Another facet of Mary's influence is the concept of "sticking to one's guns" when it comes to living an artist's life. Steve took Mary's advice to heart when dealing with the disappointment of being denied as a vocal major in college - an ironic contrast to his now emerging as one of jazz and pop music's most creative and authentic voices.

Evolving through rock, soul, Mowtown, and R & B, Steve's real depth as a musician comes from experience in "about a thousand bands - from American garage to full-on symphonic mayhem."

His multifaceted background includes acting in professional theater, performing and teaching modern dance (with the Oregon Dance Theater), and a master's degree in Classical Piano Performance earned while in the prestigious University of Northern Colorado's Jazz Studies Program.

Publications

The Road to Aqaba – Practice Strategies for the Jazz Pianist, (2007 Dharmajazz Music)
(jazz piano method book)

Recordings

Steve Snelling, "Traffic Studies" (live ambient improvisations)
Murder of Crows, "Murder of Crows" (pop-rock)
Nearly Nine, "Nearly Nine" (original a cappella quintet)
Steve Snelling, "Perfect Strangers" (Joni-influenced songwriting)

Current Activity

Steve makes his home in San Francisco, performing and teaching throughout the Bay area. His regular Tuesday night engagement at Sheba Piano Lounge is steadily building a following in the heart of the Fillmore Jazz District. He is currently working on a solo recording project featuring originals, arrangements of well-crafted pop tunes, and a few choice standards.