

Ann Reynolds – Artist Statement and Bio

Composer, Pianist

Ann began playing music at a young age, starting piano at age 7 and clarinet at 8 years of age. She was, and is, her happiest self when playing, composing, or listening to music.

Ann's formal piano study occurred in fits and starts, with self-teaching in between. As a child, she studied both classical and popular music with the neighborhood piano teachers. In college, she received good classical training, studying piano performance, composition, and theory despite the fact that she was a biology major. After college, she pursued a career in molecular biology, but found herself gravitating back to music and to jazz when she moved to Seattle in 1986. By the mid-90s she was performing with her own jazz trio and in big bands.

In 2000 Ann went to Cuba for the first time and fell in love... with the music and the people. She got tremendous support from the generous teachers in the National School for the Arts. For two weeks each year she had the wonderful experience of being in a top musical conservatory and blossomed musically.

By 2004 Ann was composing pieces and had found her lifelong dream. Her artistic goal is to compose and perform music that has movement to it and is representative of her life experience. In recent years, she has discovered her artistry in musical composition and find that people respond to the genuineness and expression in her music.

The first recording of Ann's compositions, *Para Cuba Con Amor*, was released summer 2014 and is available from cdBaby.com, [iTunes](http://iTunes.com) and Amazon.com. **Para Cuba con Amor** contains 11 of Ann's original "Cuban jazz" compositions performed by her group *Clave Gringa* and many guests, including the Cuba son group, *La Familia Valera Miranda*, and the Cuban bassist *Alberto Pantaleon*.

The second recording, "Joy", released in 2019 continues Ann's exploration of traditional Cuban popular styles as well as folkloric Afro-Cuba music.

Festivals where Ann has performed include Lima Jazz Festival 2003, 2007; Seattle Women in Jazz Festival 2013 and 2014; Earshot Jazz Festival, Ballard Jazz Festival and Anacortes Arts Festival. She has performed on stage with Ingrid Jensen, Grace Kelly, Christine Jensen, Mimi Fox and *La Familia Valera Miranda*. For many years, Ann performed in the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra and also ran the Latin ensemble, *Coco Loco*.

Education Work-workshops and presentations

2009 – Cuba in Mexico – facilitated latin jazz ensemble in Morelia.

2012 – Latin Jazz Workshop – Contemporary Music Project, Chicago – guest artist and ensemble coach

2013 – King County Library presentations of "Musical Tour of Latin America" with *Coco Loco*

2013, 2014, 2018 – Ensemble leader and coordinator for Cuban music workshops at La ENA in Havana, Cuba

2018 – Presentation for the Seattle Music Teachers Association – Using Blues to Teach Groove and Improvisation