

# Brenda Hopkins Miranda Biography

Brenda Hopkins Miranda was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Her father Harold Hopkins grew up in a farm in Stanwood, Michigan. He left his farm life to join the Peace Corps and traveled to Puerto Rico where he met Brenda's mother Margarita Miranda, who grew up in a mountain town called Corozal.

Brenda's childhood was filled with sounds from all over the world. From an early age her profound sensibilities led her to intuitively reject stylistic boundaries. Having grown up with the magical blend of rhythms and melodies, which encompasses Puerto Rican music, she expanded her sound to include Soul, Blues, R&B, Funk, Jazz, Bluegrass, Rock and all sorts of multicultural fusions.

Brenda began her musical path at the age of five, when she started taking piano, ballet and painting lessons at Bonneville School. Because of her remarkable talent she was admitted to the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico to begin undergraduate studies in Classical Piano at 16 years of age while still attending high school.

She holds a Bachelors Magna cum Laude degree in Classical Piano from the Conservatorio, was awarded a Berklee School of Music scholarship, has a Masters degree with honors in Contemporary Improvisation from New England Conservatory, and completed Doctoral Studies in Musicology at the Universidad de Granada in Spain.

Brenda is the consummate musician, having excelled as pianist, composer, arranger, improviser, bandleader, and producer. As a bandleader Hopkins Miranda has released six recordings: "Boricua on Board" (1998), "Bohemia" (1999), "Recuerdos de Granada" (2009), "Simple" (2012), "Aeropiano" (2014) and "Puentes" (2017).



Her last four albums have made the top 20, the last three the top 10 and the last two the top 5 album list from the Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular.

As a bandleader Brenda has performed in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, United States and Spain. She is also a recognized composer and artist on several short films and documentaries.

Throughout her professional career Brenda has been active as a first call pianist on international tours for a host of Latin American artists like Ricardo Montaner, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Marco Antonio Muñoz, Pandora, Ednita Nazario, Glenn Monroig, Yolandita Monge and many others.

She has also shared the stage and/or recorded with international musicians including Bob Moses, Bernie Williams, George Russel, Puya, Eggie Castrillo, Tito Auger, Fofé y los Fetiches, Tambores Calientes and others.

During her four years as the keyboard player for the #1 TV show in Puerto Rico, "Marcano el Show" she performed with musical guests Tito Puente, Sheila E., Franco de Vita, Beto Cuevas, Dave Valentín, Néstor Torres, El Gran Combo and others.

In 2006 Brenda moved to Granada, Spain for two years to pursue a PHD in musicology at the Universidad de Granada. She successfully auditioned

for a flamenco show without ever playing that music before and ended playing with Raiz y Duende twice a week at Taller de Arte Vimaambi. She was the only foreigner in the group. The experience added new influences to her already eclectic sound and inspired her to record the critically acclaimed "Recuerdos de Granada" album.

She also put together her own group with whom she performed in music festivals and clubs all over Spain.

As a performer she is known for her expressive sensibility, creative harmonies, powerful grooves, and adventurous improvisations. Her sound is percussive, rhythmic, lush, rich, melancholic, vibrant, passionate, energetic, compelling and uplifting.

Hopkins Miranda is also a groundbreaking pioneer in education. She was the winner of the Gilles Boulet 2014 first prize and medal awarded in Florianopolis, Brazil by the Interamerican Organization for Higher Education and has created over 300 creativity exercises for musicians. Brenda gives music creativity workshops all over the world. She currently is a professor at the Universidad Interamericana Recinto Metropolitano Music Program.

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