



# Brenda Hopkins Miranda

---

Reviews Sheet



## Brenda Hopkins Miranda Concert Review Highlights

*“Brenda Hopkins Miranda’s thoughts on Rafael Hernandez’s “Preciosa” demonstrated precise dynamic control” - Boston Globe*

*“We heard her enthusiastic and very eloquent, directing her band with conviction. They sound credible, honest and danceable.” - El Ideal (Granada, Spain)*

*“The fact that Brenda Hopkins Miranda is one of the most exciting pianists in Puerto Rico certainly added to the allure and excitement in this packed seaside venue. She is a mesmerizing performer with an absolute command over the production which envelopes her accompanists as well. Having performed most of the songs on her album, which a lot of the audience was familiar with, by the end of the night’s performance Hopkins had proven that she could deliver the goods in a live setting and keep the audience captivated while doing it. Though Brenda Hopkins Miranda can easily draw a crowd in the capital city of San Juan, it was quite impressive to see such enthusiasm at this rural location, which proved to be the ideal spot for this performance.” - All About Jazz*

*Brenda demonstrated all through the night good instrumental technique and her style was characterized by an energetic and eloquent phrasing. She also established good chemistry with her loyal fans. - Noctambulo*

*Puerto Rican pianist Brenda Hopkins Miranda is in Granada since the beginning of the year. In very little time she has assembled her own group and started performing. It has been said that she is the best pianist from Puerto Rico. We heard her enthusiastic and very eloquent, directing her band with conviction. They sound credible, honest and danceable. - El Ideal (Granada, Spain)*

*Puerto Rican pianist and composer Brenda Hopkins-Miranda returns to Ryles Jazz Club to perform a combination of traditional songs and original compositions inspired by her Caribbean roots. A group of Afro-Caribbean percussionists and other Latin musicians will join Hopkins for a night of exotic sounds and rhythms. - Earth Star (Boston)*

*The flamenco base is very emphasized in the work they perform and also relies on collaborations like the one on piano from Puerto Rican Brenda Hopkins, a woman “in transit” on the capital, who desires to contribute her personal style to this genuine recital. - La Opinión de Granada (Spain)*

*They were followed by the excellent Puerto Rican pianist Brenda Hopkins and her group who gave an impressive and elegant music demonstration. - Pa’l Músico de Aquí*

Arriving at Madrid from San Juan, Puerto Rico with her exuberant multiculturalism and majestic Latin rhythms is Puerto Rican composer and pianist Brenda Hopkins Miranda ~ **LH Magazín** (Madrid, Spain)

"With influences that go from jazz to Afro-Puerto Rican and Caribbean rhythms, passing by flamenco and bluegrass among others, Hopkins Miranda promises a show in which categories are unnecessary." ~ **El Nuevo Día**

Friday night served as an authentic Latin jazz banquet in charge of pianist Brenda Hopkins, who with her anemone fingers seems to tickle the piano so that songs like Watermelon Man, Lamento Borincano and Bésame Mucho unfold with pleasure and unravel in the air to form steps that take you directly to euphoria. Pianist Brenda Hopkins played to the audience's most profound feelings. ~ **El Nuevo Día**

Hopkins is one of those exceptional artists who have the capacity to capture the listener's attention and express infinite emotions with just one note. While you listen to her you have the sense that nothing is missing or superfluous, that each sound arrives in the perfect moment. The truth is that throughout all the songs, Hopkins keeps a perfect balance between expressive force and sensibility, between sophistication and accessibility. Her improvisations, unexpected at times, are the perfect union of intellect and emotion. And they can lead us to paths full of surprises without losing coherence and fluidity. ~ **Latin Jazz Network**

One of the most fresh and interesting - and also crowded - shows happening at the Concert Hall of the Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular, in Old San Juan, was the one entitled "Between Celtic, Jazz and Flamenco". Our bohemian corner was fully filled by an enthusiastic audience. The brilliant pianist Brenda Hopkins Miranda, whose domain of her instrument got her warm applause, didn't even pause to begin with a sweeping composition of her own. The evening culminated with high audience approval. ~ **Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular**

Brenda Hopkins, the youngest in the trio, is a pianist and composer with an impressive background. Her talent and praised performances were able to impress influential people in the music world, marking the beginning of her tours through Latin America and the United States with stars like Ricardo Montaner, Glenn Monroig, Ednita Nazario, Pandora and Lucecita Benítez. Her fluency and delivery when performing have been appreciated. ~ **El Nuevo Día**

With the display of virtuosism and harmonic approach that characterizes her, Hopkins started the concert with the jazz classic "Watermelon Man" from Herbie Hancock. A delicate jazzed version of "Lamento Borincano" followed accompanied by bassist Junior Irizarry and percussionist Raúl "Tatoo" Rodríguez. Brenda ended with a lot of feeling performing "Bésame Mucho". ~ **El Vocero**

The sounds of innovative pianist Brenda Hopkins Miranda are heard throughout the contemporary jazz venues of her homeland. Brenda Hopkins is among the current day innovative Latin pianists. A permanent resident of San Juan, the pianist has performed with many of the best jazz and salsa orchestras from Puerto Rico. ~ quote taken from the book ~ **Puerto Rican Pioneers in Jazz, 1900-1939: Bomba Beats to Latin Jazz** by Basilio Serrano

# Album Review Highlights

*Puentes* is an invitation to not just look at the path, but to go across it. The piano, band and vocalists' seduction give this album an unquantifiable richness and uniqueness. ~ **Sonando en Puerto Rico**

*Puentes* is an eclectic proposal, hard to box in, made with the utmost precision and expertise. *Puentes* might be one of the best 2017 Latin Jazz albums. ~ **Solar Latin Club**

Just like all the best jazz musicians do, with each new recording Brenda Hopkins presents a new facet of her art while deepening her roots and style. Here she recreates songs from the traditional repertoire like "Preciosa" and "Verde Luz" with originality making them her own. ~ **Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular**

"*Aeropiano* is an invitation to travel through Hopkins' eclectic influences. On each of the fifteen tracks, the audience will find something different and surprising, always with the passionate playing of Brenda Hopkins Miranda." ~ **Caribe Jazz Magazine**

And Miranda is a master of setting up various grooves and allowing the art of improvisation and invention to take hold. This is really a fine record, with immense world music appeal. It has nice cosmopolitan flavor and Miranda's rich piano themes and inventive soloing will keep you coming back for multiple reviews. Highly recommended! ~ **Jazz Inside Magazine**

Uniting Jazz with World Music and New Age (why not?), pianist Brenda Hopkins Miranda has created one of the best and most complete albums of the year. *Aeropiano* is emotion, technique, surprises... and above all, light, lots of light emanating from unique hands, capable of improvising fifteen cuts that will not leave anyone indifferent. ~ **Reviews New Age**

On a prolific year for jazz the most exalted of this genre is in this recording. *Aeropiano* is a journey of influences and experiences that are impeccable in their execution. The result is a wise masterpiece of excellence in sound and masterful execution. ~ **Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular**

With influences that go from jazz to afro-Puerto Rican and Caribbean rhythms, passing by flamenco and bluegrass among others, Hopkins Miranda promises a show in which categories are unnecessary.

~ **El Nuevo Día**

A consummate traveler and beneficiary of a bilingual and bicultural environment, her sense of purpose is to genuinely exploit the piano as a personal extension to convey melodious concepts with deft imagery and drama. *Aeropiano* is a passage through myriad influences and experiences leading to destinations both real and imagined, where the key is to listen. ~ **All About Jazz**

As the title suggests, *Aeropiano* is an invitation to travel through Hopkins' eclectic influences. *Aeropiano* is all that represents Hopkins' music in one album. On each one of the fifteen tracks, the audience will find something different and surprising, always with the passionate piano playing of Brenda Hopkins. ~ **Caribe Jazz Magazine**

*Aeropiano* is the well-crafted consequence of an artist on a perpetual quest to express music on her own terms, in her own time. Hopkins portrays a rhythmic wandering within her repertoire's defined tempos, exhibiting flamenco, salsa, and tango variations melded with innovative dashes of improvisation. ~ **All About Jazz**

*Simple* channels her profound individuality, drawn from a private source of focused consciousness and performed with genuine grace and elegance. A superb production, *Simple* portrays Hopkins Miranda as an adventuresome pianist, and embodies the old adage that still waters run deep. ~ **All About Jazz**

*For this Puerto Rican pianist and composer her instrument serves as a travelogue of sorts. The Keyboard is a vehicle upon which Miranda transports the listener through various moods and states of consciousness. Simple in some ways is the perfect title for this album in the sense that Miranda's pianistic approach is soft, unfettered and somewhat easy to grasp. But, on the other hand, her compositions can be unpredictable, uncommonly passionate and quite sophisticated.* - **Jazz Inside Magazine**

*The attention to detail and quality of the composition and execution of Brenda Hopkins Miranda model a resilient individual and collective strategy. As an excellent artist, she makes that which only masters can do look simple.* - **Claridad**

*Puerto Rican music and musicians, and the German label ECM albums dominate my list of 2009's best jazz recordings. If in one year there is an average of 3 to 4 jazz albums made in Puerto Rico or by Puerto Ricans, this year there are at least 9. Two of them - 'Esta plena', by Miguel Zenón and 'Recuerdos de Granada', by Brenda Hopkins - are amongst the best of the year.* - **El Nuevo Día**

*Every once in a while one comes across a CD of such quality and beauty that it restores your faith in music. Brenda Hopkins Miranda's **Memoirs from Granada** is that kind of CD. A music jewel from beginning to end, in **Memoirs from Granada**, Brenda captivates the listener with an exquisite fusion of Jazz, music from Spain and of course, music from her country, Puerto Rico. Brenda Hopkins is a wonderful pianist with extraordinary technique [...] Brenda always finds a way to capture the senses with magnificent compositions and energetic playing.* - **Jazz'n Bossa**

*The music on the record is exceptionally visual and its concept is intrinsically associated with the expression of dance. Yet the record is bursting with jazz, danza, and tango runs as well as her Afro-Cuban influences, which weave throughout. She has a distinctive percussive approach in her repertoire, which allows her to execute these pieces with authority. Her years of performing experience on the Latin American music scene honed her skills in dealing with intricate rhythms and complex arrangements, and she employs them all with great tact and precision. The songs are all interconnected by the concept she established, and the music dances on its own.* - **All About Jazz**

*The three-note passage in "Brinquito" was not an anomaly on "Bohemia" - she is an exceptional rhythmic inventor. The varied worlds she conjures up - some jagged, others even more broken and interrupted - are at the heart of her improvisations. And she is good at it, putting the notes in the right places. The combination of Miranda's "montuno-esque" improvisations with percussionist Bob Moses' organic approach make for a fresh, revolutionary album. She shows great maturity as a composer on this recording. The elasticity of the meter, the ability to give each section its appropriate time to develop, and the management of her band through the various feels demonstrate a truly successful bandleader and composer.* - **Northeast Performer**

*Brenda Hopkins Miranda is a pianist originally from Puerto Rico whose music is a tasty blend of global influences. In addition to being a remarkable composer and arranger, Miranda is also a formidable pianist. This CD (Bohemia) is a superb mix of European romanticism, Spanish passion and Third World heat. Miranda mixes rhythms together with the intensity of a mad scientist and comes up with something quite unlike any other ethnic Jazz mixture out there. This is highly recommended.* - **Cadence Magazine**

[www.brendahopkinsmusic.com](http://www.brendahopkinsmusic.com)

**Brenda Hopkins Miranda**

[brendahop@gmail.com](mailto:brendahop@gmail.com)

PO Box 362905

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-2905

[www.brendahopkinsmusic.com](http://www.brendahopkinsmusic.com)