

new release

file under: **JAZZ** RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



ANA NELSON "BRIDGES"

The promising young jazz altoist and clarinetist Ana Nelson is featured on her first full-length recording, *Bridges*. Utilizing a fine rhythm section along with appearances by a string quartet and special guests, she performs seven of her diverse yet consistently enjoyable originals.



Artist: ANA NELSON
Title: BRIDGES
Artist Website: ananelsonmusic.com
Release Date: September 2, 2022
Label: Self-Produced
UPC Code: 198004213080

Produced by Ana Nelson and Jamaal Baptiste
Recorded April 2022 at Primary Sound Studios, Bloomington, IN
Recorded, mixed and mastered by Jacob Belser
Photography by Malik Davis and Brian Boucher
Album Design by Jamie Breiwick
All compositions by Ana Nelson, BMI Ana Nelson

Track listing

all tracks composed and arranged by Ana Nelson

1. Wanderlust (5:48)
2. Waltz (5:24)
3. LCB (8:03)
4. Blue Flower (7:43)
5. NelBap Choro (4:01)
6. Let the Light In (5:17)
7. Fruit of the Groove (6:58)

Total CD Time: 43:04

MUSICIANS: Ana Nelson - Alto Saxophone (1, 3, 4, 7), Clarinet (2, 5, 6), **Jamaal Baptiste** - Piano (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7), **Brendan Keller-Tuberg** - Bass (1, 2, 3, 4), **Carter Pearson** - Drums (1, 2, 3, 4), **Garrett Fasig** - Tenor Saxophone (3), **Bill Nelson** - Tenor Saxophone (7), **Jeremy Allen** - Bass (7), **Steve Houghton** - Drums (7)
Additional Musicians (String Quartet): **Marina Alba López** - Violin (4, 6), **Jodi Dunn** - Violin (4, 6), **Alice Ford** - Viola (4, 6), **Kevin Flynn** - Cello (4, 6)

In her career so far, Ana Nelson has shown that she has equal skill and sensitivity in playing jazz, classical and Latin music whether on alto-sax or clarinet. She has mellow tones on her instruments but also displays inner passion in her improvisations.

Bridges, her first full-length release as a leader, features the up-and-comer on seven of her originals. She is joined by pianist Jamaal Baptiste on six of the seven selections, and bassist Brendan Keller-Tuberg and drummer Carter Pearson on the first four numbers.

About the album, Ana says, "As a classical musician who fell in love with jazz, and then later discovered Brazilian music, it's difficult for me to label this album as any one specific genre, as I view it more of a melding of music and people I love. The title, *Bridges*, is my way of reflecting that cross-blending. I hope that my album can exemplify the connection between genres, people, and the personal joy and empowerment that creating original music brings me."

Bridges begins with "Wanderlust," a performance that starts peacefully and then becomes more passionate as it evolves. It serves as a fine introduction to the solo talents of Nelson and Baptiste. The leader switches to clarinet for "Waltz," displaying excellent technique and a warm sound during the somber piece. "LCB," named after the initials of her family members, has a singable and playful melody highlighted by fine interplay between the altoist and the pianist. The ballad "Blue Flower" which has Nelson and her trio joined by a string quartet, sets a mysterious mood that is quite haunting.

The music changes to pure joy on "NelBap Choro," a clarinet-piano duet that will delight fans of Brazilian music; it is difficult to listen to it without smiling. "Let The Light In," which has Ana Nelson's clarinet accompanied by the string quartet, has a sweet melody that brings out some very expressive clarinet playing.

Bridges concludes with "Fruit Of The Groove," a straight-ahead cooker in which Nelson's alto swings hard along with pianist Baptiste, her father and tenor-saxophonist Bill Nelson, bassist Jeremy Allen and drummer Steve Houghton, bringing the release to an infectious close.

Ana Nelson, who is based in Bloomington, Indiana, has picked up quite a bit of experience in her career thus far. She has performed with the Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra, Michael Spiro's Descarga 5, and the Louisville Orchestra, and has recorded with Bootsy Collins, the Liberation Music Collective, the Oberlin Orchestra, and the IU New Music Ensemble. In 2020, she was awarded the Earl Hines Outstanding Soloist Award presented by Wynton Marsalis at the inaugural Jack Rudin Jazz Championship. Nelson co-founded the NelBap Duo with pianist Jamaal Baptiste which specializes in jazz and Brazilian song arrangements. In addition, she is involved in performing new modern clarinet works and has become an influential educator.

In 2017 Ana Nelson recorded her debut EP, *Wanderlust*. With the release of *Bridges*, she has taken a large step forward and is clearly destined for an important musical career.

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