



### ***Diane Monroe Biography***

Diane Monroe's solo jazz work, having begun with her tenured positions in the Max Roach Double Quartet and the Uptown String Quartet, was proclaimed by Jim Ferguson of *Jazz Times* to have displayed, "stunning musicianship...". Her performances, compositions and arrangements have been highlighted on the Cosby Show, Mr. Rogers, Carnegie Hall, the North Sea and Mellon Jazz Festivals and Zurich's Tonhalle, to name a few. She is seen performing in the movie, *Music of the Heart*, starring Meryl Streep.

During her four-year membership with The String Trio of New York, Monroe toured with Joe Lovano, Anthony Davis and Oliver Lake. She has also been honored to perform with celebrated artists such as Reggie Workman, Cecil Bridgewater, Odean Pope, Tyrone Brown, Dave Grusin, Bobby Zankel, Steve Wilson, Uri Caine, John Blake, Tom Lawton, Jim Ridi, Mark O'Connor, Regina Carter and in a special "Jazz at Jennings" (a benefit presented by the late Peter Jennings), she performed with Percy Heath, Jimmy Cobb, Renee Rosnes, Todd Coolman, Wyclif Gordon and Jon Fadis.

As an educator, she has taught at Oberlin College and is presently an adjunct professor at Temple University and Swarthmore College. She has given workshops for the coveted Op. 118 East Harlem Violin Program and Berklee College of Music in Boston. At the Verbier Festival 2000 in Switzerland, Monroe conducted the Fiddlefest Jazz Orchestra, featuring the violinist, Kennedy.

Monroe's twenty-five-year career within the "classical world" has afforded her performances with renowned musicians such as Yo-Yo Ma and Arnold Steinhardt. In 2005, Ms. Monroe performed a recital presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, nicknamed "Infused with the Blues". In 2010, the esteemed composer/master teacher, David N. Baker wrote a violin concerto for Ms. Monroe, which she premiered in 2010 with the Duluth-Superior Symphony with Markand Thaker conducting. As a continuing

advocate for "New Music," she has enjoyed performing works by Andrew Rudin and Julia Wolfe, and she recently premiered two sonata works by Robert Capanna (Former Philadelphia Settlement School's Executive Director) and Philip Maneval (Philadelphia Chamber Music Society's Executive Director) at Curtis Institute's Field Hall in 2012.

Monroe appeared with her jazz quartet at the Terrace Theater/Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as a participant in the 2012 Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival. Diane regularly performs with her jazz quartet/quintet and duo with vibraphonist Tony Miceli. Monroe and Miceli released their CD, *Alone Together*, in 2014. Monroe premiered/performed her work, "The Self-Evident Poem," at Virginia Tech University – a work of music set to words by poet/activist Nikki Giovanni. In addition, Monroe composed and performed the premiere of "Tanaina Dreams," a jazz piece scored for beginner/intermediate level string orchestra, two solo violins and vibraphone. This piece was dedicated to and performed by the Hiland Mountain Women's prison facility in Anchorage, AK.

As a composer/collaborator within multiple disciplines, Monroe has produced jazz and popular music scores for projects such as "The Blues Book Project," (a concert) with artist/painter Curlee Holten (1998); "One Wall Missing" and "Source Code, Candide" (two plays) for Tap-It/New Works Theater Ensemble (2003-2004); "Beans" (for silent animated film) for Relache Contemporary Music Ensemble (2003); "Words" and "Lift the Youth" for Philadelphia's Art Sanctuary and Opera Company's Hip H'Opera Project (2007); *The Cave*, a children's interactive drama (2010); and "Ain't I a Woman," a theater documentary touring for the Core Ensemble. Monroe has collaborated most recently with dancer/choreographers Lisa Kraus, Germaine Ingram and Leah Stein, performing her original unaccompanied improvisations on themes from Bach to relevant social issues.

Monroe is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and University of the Arts, and attended Oberlin Conservatory and Michigan State University.

Learn more at [dianemonroemusic.com](http://dianemonroemusic.com).