

About the Artist

www.MichellePollace.com

Hear familiar rock and jazz melodies set to alluring Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms; plus, original compositions from Michelle's critically acclaimed CD "New Beginning"

Whether performing her own compositions or her arrangements of standards, Bay Area native **Michelle Pollace** [poh-LAH-chi] honors the roots of jazz, Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban music while adding a new voice. Her latest CD, *New Beginning*, has garnered favorable press as well as airplay on around 200 satellite, public, and college radio stations, plus made the "most added releases" list in *JazzWeek*.

The **Michelle Pollace Latin Jazz** band plays a variety of venues, from the quieter restaurant environments to the vibrant stages of outdoor festivals. Michelle draws on top-drawer Bay Area talent to meet the energy and budget for any type of event.

Her CD *New Beginning* features an all-star lineup—producer **Rebeca Mauleon**, a recognized Latin-music expert and renown pianist and educator; **David Belove** on bass; **Phil Hawkins** on drums; **Carlos Caro** on Cuban percussion; **Michaelle Goerlitz** on Brazilian percussion; and saxophonist **Kristen Strom** as guest soloist. Michelle's love of melody and affinity for well-structured compositions creates a classic sound, of which critic Mark Tucker of *Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange* writes, "I'm highly reminded of Ahmad Jamal's ... and others' old canons of work." This melodic sensibility makes her music accessible to a wide audience.

Prior to launching her solo endeavor, Michelle co-led Zarate Pollace Project with guitarist **Abel Zarate** (hit songwriter for Malo and Willie Bobo). ZPP enlisted the musical contributions of many Bay Area luminaries, including **John Santos**, **Paul Van Wageningen**, **Michael Spiro**, and others to realize its musical blend of jazz, fusion, Brazilian, and Afro-Cuban styles both live and on the CD *Soul Redemption*. Michelle's diverse performance and recording credits also include orchestra member in **Lou Harrison**'s internationally renowned Gamelan Si Betty, keyboardist for **Chepito Areas** (Santana's original percussionist and arranger), chorus member in a Gilbert & Sullivan theater company, bassist for a grunge band, and more. She is also co-author of *Musicreation*, a book/CD music-instruction method.

"Pollace has a strong commanding presence on *New Beginning*. Like a baker, she has a way of gently whipping rhythms until they are cohesive and taut. Pollace is a daring player whose music is **dramatic and alive.**" —Marc Myers, *JazzWax*

"Michelle Pollace, who we premiered this morning on 89.1 Jazz, ... is taking her work to the national level with *New Beginning*. While her left hand builds tension and sinuous rhythms, her right plies lacy figures and tricky arpeggios. Lest you think this is a highly intellectual experience, I must add that this disc has another crucial component of good Latin jazz—it is **loads of fun!**"—Linda Yohn, *Award-Winning Music Director, WEMU 89.1 FM*

"Think 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' has been done to death yet? You couldn't be more wrong, 'cause Michelle Pollace kicks off *New Beginning* with a version that interpolates Guaraldi and Brubeck, **dancing the old standby through the county fair in a spring dress of pastel colors and high spirits.** Her version even makes one wonder why no one's tackled it in this fashion before." —Mark S. Tucker, *Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange*

"There's a defined sense of structure in Pollace's work ... that makes her music **both accessible and exciting.** Pollace's music overflows with a strong artistic command, an authentic connection to the source material, and an infectious sense of cool. From every angle, there's a feeling of support and commitment to a product that shines with quality and integrity."

—Chip Boaz, *Latin Jazz Corner, Album of the Week*

Contact: Michelle Pollace, 408/412-1070; michelle@michellepollace.com



Press

see more at: www.MichellePollace.com

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“Michelle Pollace, who we premiered this morning on 89.1 Jazz, has worked hard to build a reputation in one of the most competitive Latin jazz communities in the world – San Francisco – and is taking her work to the national level with *New Beginning*. While her left hand builds tension and sinuous rhythms, her right plies lacy figures and tricky arpeggios. Lest you think this is a highly intellectual experience, I must add that this disc has another crucial component of good Latin jazz – it is loads of fun! *New Beginning* by Michelle Pollace is an excellent introduction to an outstanding new talent.” —*Linda Yohn, Award-Winning Music Director, WEMU 89.1 FM*

“Pollace marks the next chapter in her musical life with power, grace, and style on *New Beginning* ... There’s a defined sense of structure in Pollace’s work ... that makes her music both accessible and exciting. Pollace’s music overflows with a strong artistic command, an authentic connection to the source material, and an infectious sense of cool. From every angle, there’s a feeling of support and commitment to a product that shines with quality and integrity.” —*Chip Boaz, Latin Jazz Corner, Album of the Week pick*

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“What I like about this album is the cadence, swing, and softness Michelle puts into her interpretation. This is all about the awareness of her fingers’ feeling over the black and white piano keys. Michelle’s playing is the game of touching and perceiving the piano hammer pulse of each key in the time of the music.” —*by Oscar Montagut, Latin Jazz Net CD review*

“Striking out on her own and being a mom are not the only beginnings pianist Michelle Pollace has to be proud of; with *New Beginning* Michelle reveals the depth of her compositional skills and her talents as a Latin jazz pianist of note.” —*by Edward Blanco, Allaboutjazz.com CD review*

“This is a CD full of rich melodies and rhythms that are infectious. ... This is obviously a highly skilled group of musicians and the ensemble effect is intricately connected.” -- *CD Review by Grady Harp on Amazon.com (5 of 5 stars)*

“Pollace brings the Latin to the jazz and creates wonderful cocktail jazz that is a gasser. ... it’s clear Pollace is a real player but has no qualms about being an entertainer ...” —*Chris Spector, Midwest Record CD review*

Testimonials (see website for more)

“Great CD (Michelle Pollace, *New Beginning*) ...ONE OF THE BEST I’VE HEARD IN QUITE SOME TIME!” —Jimmy Castro, Producer of The Latin Jazz & Salsa Show, WCLM

“Just received your new release, *New Beginning* ... and can’t get enough listening to it! Refreshing, well-composed music.” —William Johnson, Music Director, KPOV

“Mark Whitty was a Spotlight Artist on a previous edition of PAATJ and he made the following comment: ‘Michelle Pollace is a brilliant piano player. One can hear the years of hard work preceding this exposure. Like the tourist asking a New Yorker, ‘Can you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall, please?’ Local’s reply, ‘Practice, man! Practice!’’ I really enjoyed programming your appearance. I love your song ‘Forro,’ and your album is outstanding!” —Mark Stevens, programmer of Piano and All That Jazz podcast

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