

# Michelle Pollace: Testimonials/Press

For more information, contact Michelle Pollace  
email: [michelle@michellepollace.com](mailto:michelle@michellepollace.com)  
[www.MichellePollace.com](http://www.MichellePollace.com)

"Pianist Michelle 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 digs in on every track, and songs like 'Forro' and 'Bright Eyes' evolve into mini-suites. Pollace is a daring player whose music is dramatic and alive." —*Marc Myers, JazzWax.com CD Discoveries*

"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*

"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." —*Edward Blanco, CD Review: Allaboutjazz.com*

"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*

"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, CD Review: Midwest Record*

"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." — *Oscar Montagut, Latin Jazz Net, "Presenting Michelle Pollace's Album, New Beginning"*

"Upbeat Latin jazz with a pop flair, *New Beginning* is a well-conceived release from pianist Michelle Pollace." —*John Barron, CD Review: Jazz Word*

"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*

New Beginning earned "Best of 2013" mentions on "Latino Music Cafe" (Hector Aviles) and "Herencia Latina" (Nelson Rodriguez)

"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*

"I've enjoyed Michelle's new CD—good stuff." —*Frank Miller, Music Director, KTXK*

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

"Very tasty tunes!" —*Juan Camarillo, Latin Jazz Host, KTEP*

"Nice! Excellent CD." —*Mark Levine, Latin-jazz pianist/composer ("Linda Chicana") and author of The Jazz Piano Book, and Jazz Theory Book, on New Beginning*

"Michelle Pollace is a very gifted pianist and composer. Her original compositions shine with heart and beauty." —*Mari Hall, visual artist*

"Your performance Sunday evening ... is one of the best I've seen/heard in a long time. The entire performance was dynamic, joyful and full of all kinds of rhythm and soul. Thank you for being so passionate about music. It certainly comes through in your music. Una maravilla!" —*Rosie G., concertgoer*

"What a band! You all sounded great; I especially liked the original tunes. I picked up both CDs, looking forward to listening." —*John A., concertgoer*