

Transitions

Life is a journey overflowing with transitions. From the moment we are born, till the day we take our last breath and beyond we are transitioning. Some transitions are smooth like jazz, others can be a wild ride like rock. However, it is always glorious and affirming to see the dawn of a new day in all its' splendor transition from the darkness, or the colorful and mesmerizing sunset over the ocean transition to night.

This CD is one of the many transitions in my life and truly a gift from God. Five years ago, a massive stroke left me a hemiplegic. I was unable to speak for a time and the possibility of singing again at times seemed excruciatingly implausible. However, faith and prayer bring hope along for the ride. So, I began a transition to get to this musical point, first a breath, a noise, then a sound, followed by a musical sound, then a few musical sounds together, followed by a musical phrase, and finally a song.

This natural progression led to other gifts that God put in my path. Mark, a longtime friend and accompanist introduced me to Vinnie, who brought Joel to the party. Joel hooked us up with Tom and Bruce. Collectively they suggested I call Steve at Jankland Recording. At some point Mark had to leave the project, I was given a few names to replace him. One of them was Jimmy's. I recognized the name as someone who many years ago, filled in at the last minute when another musician bailed days before a gig. Also, when I needed someone to fill in at a Sunday church service weeks later, crazy as it seemed to call a jazz pianist, I called Jimmy. Again, he jumped in. When I called Jimmy this time, not only did he remember me as "the lady from the church gig", he said yes. Steve brought in Tommy and the band was complete.

This CD is my mesmerizing sunset, the warm sunrise as it peaks through the clouds at dawn. This is Transitions!

MUSICIANS

Tom Cottone, drums
Joel Bennett, bass
Mark Cohn, piano
Vinnie Corrao, guitar
Bruce Jackson, drums
Jimmy De Salvo, piano
Steve Jankowski, trumpet, trombone
Tommy LaBella, alto sax, tenor sax