

MYRA MELFORD | SNOWY EGRET



Pianist and composer **Myra Melford's** music is informed by vernacular American musical idioms such as blues, jazz, and Latin dance rhythms, suggesting the music of the Americas while avoiding pastiche.

Snowy Egret, her current working quintet, performs original compositions written specifically for its members: **Ron Miles** (cornet), **Liberty Ellman** (guitar), **Stomu Takeishi** (bass guitar) and **Tyshawn Sorey** (drums). The quintet made its debut in 2012 with concerts in New York and Los Angeles, and in 2013 performed in Paris, Amsterdam, and Brooklyn, NY, leading up to the world premiere of Melford's multi-media project, *Language of the Dreams*, in San Francisco in November 2013, with Snowy Egret as its driving musical force. Snowy Egret's eponymously titled debut album *Enja/yellowbird*, (2015) was hailed by **The New York Times** ("an extremely fine new album") and **The Wall Street Journal** ("full of bright, intense rhythms and complex harmonies... lean, lithe and appealing"), among many other glowing reviews.

Myra Melford emerged in the early '90s as one of the most highly acclaimed young jazz pianists of the day. Her career has been defined by a restless curiosity and openness to collaborative creativity that is reflected in her highly personal, idiosyncratic style, which incorporates such wide-ranging influences as Chicago blues, Zen Buddhism and the "organic philosophy" of Frank Lloyd Wright. She has recorded prolifically, and her previous bands such as **The Same River**, **Twice** and **Be Bread** are featured on several recordings, along with the collective **Trio M** with bassist Mark Dresser and drummer Matt Wilson, and her duets with woodwind virtuoso Marty Ehrlich and Dutch drum legend Han Bennink. Other recent releases, are her first piano solo album, *Life Carries Me This Way*, inspired by the drawings of her friend, the late Don Reich, and the duet recording *Dialogue* with clarinetist Ben Goldberg.

Melford was the recipient of the prestigious **Alpert Award in the Arts for Music in 2012**, a **Guggenheim Fellowship** and a **Doris Duke Performing Artists Award in 2013**. A music professor at U.C. Berkeley since 2004, she is currently an **artist-in-residence at YBCA**, leading an initiative to increase appreciation of jazz, particularly among women and youth, and to strengthen the Bay Area jazz ecology.

Performance video clips: <http://vimeo.com/search?q=Myra+Melford+Snowy+Egret>

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