

**INTRODUCING...**

## **Jazz Pianist & Composer HELEN SUNG**

**Booking: Nancy Clark 646.546.6707 \* [helen@helensung.com](mailto:helen@helensung.com)**



Ever since she fell in love with jazz, Helen Sung has pursued its heart of **swing** and the blues. Her music is grounded by a deep respect for history & tradition, but **adventure & revolution** run through her veins – check out how she interprets Thelonious Monk, no doubt a kindred spirit!

A study in contrasts, this “East meets West in the South (Sung is a native of Houston, Texas, which has produced some of today’s top jazz artists) now gone Northeast” once-classical pianist before a Tommy Flanagan solo changed everything, defied her cultural upbringing to pioneer a path which embraces and integrates these contrasts... **watch what happens now.**

Sung is part of the **new blood of jazz** – those who wrestle with the daunting jazz tradition and have the trial-by-fire training with the masters (working with artists like trumpet great Clark Terry, master-bassist Ron Carter, violinist & MacArthur Fellow Regina Carter, drummer T.S. Monk, and the legendary Wayne Shorter gives her a foundation of exceptional breadth and depth), and yet are creating something all their own, offering fresh glimpses into the future.

In performance, Sung exudes joy, passion, and a sassy sense of humor, and audiences are “taken for a ride they won’t soon forget.” (*Kalamazoo Gazette*)

In addition to a touring **piano trio** and **solo** performances, current projects include:

✧ **Sung With Words** is a new poetry-inspiring-music-inspiring-poetry program sparked by Sung’s fortuitous meeting with poet (and former *National Endowment for the Arts* Chairman) Dana Gioia. Featuring “Entrance,” one of Gioia’s poems from his award-winning *Interrogations At Noon*, this project delves into the emotions of the artistic heart. Poems by additional poets include Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Emily Dickinson, and Robert Friend, and the work is performed with vocalist and jazz trio or quartet.

✧ **Sunbird after Albeniz** showcases Sung’s classical background within a jazz setting. It is rare that the two major genres of Western Music are equally well represented in one cohesive work, but “pianist Helen Sung has done it right” (*All About Jazz*). Featured in the *NY Times*’ ‘Playlist’, *Sunbird* was inspired by a suite of piano pieces (*Espana*, Op. 165) by Spanish composer Isaac Albeniz. Sung intertwines his original pieces with her compositions for quartet, displaying an orchestral approach (she also studied the violin) that utilizes a wide range of colors and textures. “A real winner...” enthuses *All About Jazz*, who “guarantee(s) you will be as fascinated by this disc on the 20<sup>th</sup> listening as on the first!”

**MUSIC SOUNDCLIPS** available at [www.helensung.com](http://www.helensung.com) or a **SAMPLER CD** is available upon request ([helen@helensung.com](mailto:helen@helensung.com))