

Judi Silvano

Vocalist, Composer, Lyricist

extended bio

What Judi Silvano has been able to accomplish thus far gives the appearance of multiple artists' careers strung together -- but it's all Judi. In fact, she's always got a new project ready to fly, oftentimes dovetailing and overlapping her previous efforts.

Born in Philadelphia, with a degree (in both Music and Dance) from Temple University, Judi made her way to New York City in 1976 where she launched her career as an improviser -- of dance at first. But jazz would not be far behind.

An alchemist of music and movement, her career as a choreographer and dancer led her straight to NYC's downtown music scene where her improvisational spirit could run free. It also steered her toward what would become a long-term collaboration with saxophonist Joe Lovano that began in 1980 and continues to this day. Their like-minded approach to creativity through collaboration has fueled both of their creative spirits.

Throughout the '80s, you could also find Judi on any given Monday night at the Village Vanguard where the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra held forth, soaking in the great charts of Thad Jones. Before long, Judi could sing along with all the lead trumpet parts. You can trace the roots of her unique horn-like approach to vocalizing directly to this experience.

To date, Judi Silvano has fourteen recordings to her credit, including her first solo outing in 1992 "Dancing Voices" with her first vocal ensemble and 1997's "Vocalise" (Blue Note). She's led multiple vocal groups from Voices of Juniper to Voices Together, won numerous awards and grants (Meet the Composer, New York State Council on the Arts), been named as one of the Top 10 Vocalists in Down Beat magazine four times, has been a jazz journalist/columnist (All About Jazz) and has been the subject of an original composition ("Sketches for Silvano" by Lori Dobbins).

As a gifted educator with a great heart (that comment comes straight from her students), Ms. Silvano has passed on her knowledge and experience to a multitude of young musicians both privately and through her Vocal Improv

workshops in NYC, and at such esteemed institutions as Banff International Center for the Arts and Rutgers University. As a progressive composer and arranger, Judi Silvano's work has been recognized by the industry in many ways, including taking First Prize in The Brooklyn Lager Band Search with judging for the Search led by trumpeter Lester Bowie.

Silvano dons the "Producer's Hat" quite often. Her most recent efforts include annual Thelonious Sphere Monk Birthday Celebrations featuring the composer's amazing songs with lyrics by Jon Hendricks, Mike Ferro, Sally Swisher among others. After the 9-1-1 events when lower Manhattan was almost shut down, she began offering a monthly series at NYC's Cornelia Street Cafe, where her presentations featuring established and emerging vocalists, spanning a deliciously eclectic array of themes including: "Improvisational Journey", "A Tribute to Monk", "Sephardic Meets Jazz", "New Songs for Singers" (which included 14 singers presenting new repertoire), and with jazz journalist Lara Pellegrinelli, an evening of alternative lyrics to songs entitled "Strangers in the Night - An Evening of Uncommon Lyrics to the Great American Songbook".

The roster of musicians with whom Silvano has collaborated, performed, recorded and/or toured reads like a Who's Who of Jazz. A short list of these stellar artists includes Kenny Werner, Joe Lovano, Rizzo B. Harris, Bill Frisell, Paul Motian, Charlie Haden, Tim Hagans, Jack DeJohnette, Erik Friedlander, George Garzone, Billy Drewes, Al Foster, Manny Albam, Dave Holland, Dave Douglas, Mike Formanek, Gerry Hemingway, Michael Abene, Rufus Reid, Ingrid Jensen, Dick Oatts, Newman Taylor Baker and Mal Waldron - and that's just the tip of the iceberg. She's performed at a multitude of festivals and concert houses around the globe, including the Montreal, Paris, London, Verona, Perugia, Istanbul, Xalapa, Langnau Switzerland and North Sea Jazz Festivals as well as the JVC Jazz Festival in NY.

"Songs I Wrote or Wish I Did" was released in 2000 (JSL) a mix of various songs and Silvano originals with a swinging group made up of Vic Juris on guitar, Larry Goldings on organ, Essiet Okon Essiet on bass and the amazing Victor Lewis on drums. Listening to that album (which was to have been the follow-up to her Blue Note "Vocalise" album, except for economic limitations) makes you realize how quickly Judi was exploring and expressing her unique strengths as a creative singer within the jazz world.

Her landmark duo recording with the great pianist/composer Mal Waldron called "Riding A Zephyr" was recorded in Belgium and released in 2002 (Soul Note/Black Saint). It featured both their Original songs (with new lyrics by Silvano to several of the Maestro's songs) and showed the power of communication across generational boundaries. Fortunately, Mr. Waldron heard the completed album and dug it, and continued to tell Judi stories and jokes on their transatlantic phone line. But he passed away shortly before he was to have come to NYC for some planned gigs of their duo at Birdland and a Master Class at New York University.

Two of Silvano's recordings are surprising and healing. "Sound Garden - Spirit Music" (JSL) is the first in a series of CDs of music for healing meditation that Judi improvised on flute, alto flute, alto recorder, voice and percussion in collaboration with Joe Lovano who played gongs, shakuhachi wood flute, bass clarinet percussion. The second recording in this series, "Sound Garden – Celestial Voices" (JSL) is a lush and earthy soundscape of women's voices that shows Silvano's roots as a choral singer expanded into arrangements for voices and flutes. Chronogram Magazine said "This disc transcends the conventional relaxation recording and is a truly glorious disc!"

2004's release "Let Yourself Go" (ZOHO) is a loving birthday gift to her Mother of her favorite standard songs. With sextet arrangements by Michael Abene featuring Ingrid Jensen on trumpet, Rufus Reid on bass, Dick Oatts on alto sax, Dan Silverman (Judi's brother) on trombone and Newman Taylor-Baker on drums, it was voted on several Top 10 lists including Dr. Herb Wong in Jazz Educators Journal/IAJE and the Montreal Journal by Len Dobbin.

The next Spring, there were two more gigs with the "Let Yourself Go" Sextet with the amazing arrangements by Michael Abene, conducting from the piano at NYC's Jazz Standard Club. Other gigs included Birdland and Sweet Rhythm in NYC's Greenwich Village and the famed club The Dakota in Minneapolis. Dick Oatts flew out and Judi hired some fine musicians there: Laura Caviani, Dave Jensen, Jeff Rinear, Gordy Johnson and Phil Hey. The Jazz Police's Andrea Carter took lots of photos. Thanks to all the folks who came out to help celebrate this release! There was such enthusiasm about this band, they had 4 Release Parties! And, why not?

2005 started and continued as a whirlwind of music and travel. Silvano attended the IAJE Conference in LA, where she got to hang out with so many folks, including Dee Dee Bridgewater and Don Byron. Then Danilo Perez invited Judi to his 2nd Annual Panamanian Jazz Festival as part of Joe Lovano's Street Band not only singing but also playing flute (see photos). Then, back in NY, she did a concert of "Sound Garden: Spirit Music", music for Meditation and Healing, (see Recordings page) playing flutes & percussion with Joe Lovano on woodwinds and Salvatore Bonafede on piano at the Hudson View Gardens series. Next up was the Lester Young celebration "To Prez With Love" at St. Peters Church. That was fun.

On the Educational front, Silvano taught a 6-week Studio Works' program for Teens at Risk in New Jersey and presented an Alumni Panel discussion on the integration of music and dance at her alma mater Temple University in Philadelphia. She then presented a discussion of the musical research and recording process for Provost Research Day at Rutgers University where she had taught voice for 10 years, taught a workshop on Vocal Improvisation & Lyrics Interpretation at an upstate High School and was guest lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Whew!

Some other highlight performances include headlining with her "Let Yourself Go" band at the "Willie the Lion Smith" Goshen Festival in upstate New York, singing at Caramoor Festival in Joe Lovano's "Celebrating Sinatra" ensemble, being part of a Memorial Tribute to Steve Lacy at Merkin Hall hosted by Roswell Rudd (featuring George Lewis, Thomas Buckner, Dave Leibman, Bobby Few, Irene Aebi, John Betsch and Joe Lovano among others). Then she had a ball playing Dizzy's Club Coca Cola for a week of late-night sets with the wonderful Janice Friedman on piano.

Perhaps the most amazing event of that winter, however, was bringing the "Women's Work" Quartet to Rome, Italy for the "Donne In Musica Winter Festival". It was the first time she formed an all-female ensemble to present the music she had been researching and playing since 2003. She created an annual concert of music by Women Composers, usually during the month of March in honor of Women's History Month. Here was a chance to present the band in a concert format, hosted by a foundation devoted to presenting the music of women composers from around the world, run by Patricia Adkins Chiti. They were among the first of the groups to represent the jazz idiom and included Andrea Wolper, Linda Presgrave, Carole Sudhalter, Dotti Anita Taylor, Melissa Slocum and an Italian drummer. It all came

together right up to the standing ovation they got which was the moment she knew she had to record the group, because it felt so good!!!! It was a special night also because the great Italian clarinet legend Tony Scott and bassist Giovanni Thomasso came to check them out!!! Later in 2007 she recorded LIVE in NYC's Sweet Rhythm!

2006 came in with the IAJE and one last gig at Birdland with the "Let Yourself Go" Sextet... Michael Abene's great arrangements of Judi's mom's favorite Standard songs for that CD drew the bandmembers from the recording to make the gig! There was some great playing by Rufus Reid, Dick Oatts, Newman Taylor-Baker, Ingrid Jensen, Jamie Baum on alto flute, Dan Silverman and course the Maestro Abene! That winter, Silvano also joined a really fun band, Chris Sullivan's "New Orleans Jazz Express" and they played some Cajun music for the revelers at Bodles Opera House in Chester, NY and around the Hudson Valley.

Silvano played with so many wonderful musicians all year, but some of the highlights were going to Paris to play at the Sunside Club with the great Bobby Few and John Betsch in their adopted hometown, going to Boston to play at Ryles with Pat Adams and finally get to experience the superb Ray Santisi tinkle those ivories, and playing 4 times with many top NYC musicians at the Bacchus Room while it was still happening, such as John DiMartino, Mary Ann McSweeney, Ranzo B. Harris, Adam Kolker, Kenny Wessel, Todd Isler and Linda Presgrave.

One very memorable concert in the summertime was an outdoor pavillion in the famed Storm King Art Center in the mid-Hudson valley. It was a beautiful day and the band was Peter Einhorn on guitar, Chris Sullivan on bass and a favorite surprise, Joe Lovano on drums. Now there was an exuberant lesson in rhythm!

Another big event in 2006, was being awarded a NYSCA Grant for multi-disciplinary educational work with music and dance. The project which originated in 2004 as "Voices Together" became "Pathways to Music and Dance" and Silvano led 7 Workshops for people of all ages to share in their love of music and movement. They created a place to play and delighted ages from ages 5 to 75 dancing and making music together in the libraries and art centers that hosted the workshops. (Please see her Projects page for more about this kind of work.)

Judi had 2 Big Band experiences in 2006. The first was with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, with whom Joe Lovano had begun working the year before on a project. Their bassist, Dave Morgan arranged original material that he wrote and arranged some original songs by Joe and by Silvano for their repertoire. He arranged Bougainvillea and Bass Space so now she has a few Big Band charts on originals! The CJO played 4 nights at Birdland in NYC and recorded an album of some of the charts. It was a thrill and honor for her to hear her songs arranged for this band.

The other Big Band in Silvano's life that year is led by master trumpeter and arranger, Tim Hagans, with whom she shared the front line in Joe Lovano's Universal Language band in the 1980's. Tim has led the Norrbotten Big Band in Lulea, Sweden for 10 years, and has developed the band into an excellent ensemble. He also arranged 3 Silvano tunes (Make It A Classic, Heuchera Americana and Bougainvillea) for the band and they did a tour from the famed Fasching Club in Stockholm to the Nefertiti Club in Goteborg and up to a small town near the Arctic Circle. It was amazing to realize how much Tim had influenced her improvising by playing with him so much in the early days in New York, and to be back together improvising with him and Joe Lovano every night was a very deeply moving experience.

While it couldn't get much better than that, it did in a way. On the way back to New York, Silvano and Lovano stopped in Tallinn, Estonia. Master bassist Toivo Unt, organized a series of Master Classes for them at a local music school and hosted a jam session every night. They were a wonderful group of musicians! Then they played a concert for the JazzKaar Festival with an ensemble of mixed US (drummer Brian Melvin and bassist Peter Barshay) and Estonian (guitarist Jaak Soar and pianist Jurmo Espere) musicians. It was held in a beautiful old concert hall and the crowd made a Tuesday feel like Saturday night!

Music is truly the universal language and the more she met people whose hearts are open to sharing this music, the more encouraging she felt that the world will somehow survive all the crazy politics and wars.

That autumn, there was a long weekend up to Boston which became a mini-festival of playing with one of Silvano's other favorite saxophonist, George Garzone! His Trio "The Fringe" (who have been playing together every week for 30 years) invited her to sit in with them for a little gig at the Lily Pad and then they joined her for a gig at Ryles Jazz Club with the great Joe

Lovano joining in. After singing arrangements of Standards for a sextet to support her last CD project, it was great fun to do 2 nights of mostly Improvisation with some masterful improvisers!!!

At the invitation of Justin DiCioccio, Silvano taught a Master Class at the famed Manhattan School of Music, and had the pleasure of working with their Vocal Masters students. She continued teaching voice at Rutgers University's Newark Campus and at Newburgh Performing Arts Academy in the Mid-Hudson Valley. So, the end of 2006 was filled with family and love and music and the many blessings in my life.

2007 started out in a good way. Her new album "Women's Work" was released in June. It's a very exciting project of under-recorded compositions by some of America's great composers who happen to be women. The band is made up of the ensemble that played in Rome, Italy last year, and they are Janice Friedman on piano, Jennifer Vincent on bass and Allison Miller on drums and these ladies together are a powerhouse of swing and groove! They recorded LIVE at Sweet Rhythm last year, playing works by Mary Lou Williams, Abbey Lincoln, Sheila Jordan, Carla Bley, Blossom Dearie, Bessie Smith, Meredith d'Ambrosio, a few Silvano songs and one by Janice Friedman (that Silvano wrote lyrics for). The music really gets you dancing!

They had lots of gigs with this fabulous repertoire and Judi relished speaking with Abbey Lincoln and Sheila Jordan frequently about their songs that were part of the program. It meant so much to study their works and they reciprocated with encouragement to keep their songs alive. And the album got some good reviews. "Silvano and company are in fine form, obviously having a ball with this material going from softly introspective to joyfully buoyant and delightfully saucy." (Chris Loudon, Jazz Times).

The "Women's Work" group kept working for several years and Janice Friedman on piano especially kept the band swinging hard with Jennifer Vincent on bass and Allison Miller on drums whenever they could make a gig. When they couldn't, it gave her a chance to play with some other talented women musicians around NYC, too, including Mary Ann McSweeney, Bernice "Boom Boom" Brooks, Miriam Sullivan, Linda Presgrave and "Sweet" Sue Terry when she started to add a horn to the group. A continuation of this project is already in the works with songs by such composers as Melba Liston, Bertha Hope, Sarah Cassey, Jane Herbert

Hall, Peggy Lee, Renee Rosnes and others. One day there will be a Women's Work Volume II! Still working on that... There is much to study!

“Silvano’s immense musicality blooms on her recent “Cleome: Live Takes” released in 2008 (JSL). Keenly dedicated to her adventuring approach to songcraft, Silvano teams up with a stellar group of collaborators on the album: saxophonist George Garzone, bassist Michael Formanek and drummer Gerry Hemingway (with John Lindberg taking over the bass chair on two tracks). Together they create a vibrant garden of performances and each of the nine songs on “Cleome” stands as an evocative glimpse into the soul of Silvano’s creative personality and love of collaboration.” Nice review! And Down Beat Magazine gave it 4 stars with this review: “Vocalist Judi Silvano has guts and takes big risks... singing with rhythmic snap. These are a series of audio snapshots, exciting in their spontaneity. As a whole this release reminds us of the voice’s unwavering primacy as a tuneful instrument and of Silvano’s genuine gifts in this regard.”

2008 – 2011 were busy years. In fact, it was quite a blur! Silvano’s mother had many changes in her ability to live alone and many transitions in her living situation and health conditions. Silvano realized that it was a blessing to be flexible and spend time with her as she was aging. By 2012, she had her 89th birthday and was still coming to Judi’s gigs... a tough cookie!

In 2007 Silvano moved to the Hudson River Valley full time and stopped teaching Voice at Rutgers University’s Newark campus after 10 years. She started working with youngsters from 5 – 15 years old at the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy. It was a humbling and very challenging task to teach these young people about the language of music and at the same time engage their love of what they were hearing on the radio. It led her coach them in the Pop music that they knew and she bought sheet music and Karaoke CD’s to work on with them. She managed to bring some of the rudiments of music into their awareness, told them about some of the Important personalities in Jazz History (Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong) and started teaching them songs in different languages, too. As they grow and develop, someday perhaps there will be a flicker of recognition that will inspire them from our time together.

That year there was also a lot of touring in Europe, working in bands mostly with Joe Lovano and it is always a gift to have the opportunity to be on the bandstand with his enormous energy and power. Silvano feels she finally

began to be able to harness her own power and intuitive improvisations to find ways to communicate directly with listeners, with or without words, much more than in the past. It was also a lesson watching Mr. Lovano on the road and in all of his creative endeavors, watching him get some of richly deserved recognition, and giving 110% of himself every time without any attitude.

Silvano started bringing her own bands to some European venues and also developed her material for teaching Master Classes on “Freeing the Voice” in university settings, like the Hassadna Conservatory in Jerusalem!

She also started getting calls to be a side-person. Through a tragedy, her dear friend Kenny Werner wrote a large-scale piece for woodwind ensemble, percussion and soloists including himself on piano plus Lovano and Silvano. “No Beginning, No End” was premiered in Boston at MIT and several years later Jeff Levenson had the foresight to realize it should be recorded and helped make that become a reality. It was a very difficult process and piece to learn, both emotionally and musically, as it demanded a very different approach to “singing” than Silvano had experienced. Her part was conceived of as a narrator of sorts, like a dramatic “high priestess” although it was totally sung, with some of Mr. Werner’s beautiful melodic material written in a very low part of her range. The recording, released in 2010, was very well received, except for the fact that the Grammy/NARAS folks couldn’t figure out what category to put it in, so it was denied a nomination at the Grammy’s. What a shame, as it warranted acknowledgement. Ah, these cross-over pieces of creative stuff that don’t quite fit into the boxes the world thinks they should fit into.... This is a dilemma for all creatives.

Silvano worked a lot with Adam Kolker for quite a few years and developed a strong empathy. He embraced many of her original songs, even asking to play them tunes on his own gigs! Also, she started playing again with the amazing Ratzon B. Harris so knew any kind of repertoire was possible. She brought out some old repertoire and re-wrote and/or revised some of them and enjoyed the fruits of collective spontaneous arrangements based on the originally written theme! It was a time of developing new songs.

Around 2009, while my mother was beginning to experience symptoms of Dementia, I tried not to travel as much so that I could be closer to her in NYC. As her energy fell, our visits would become shorter and shorter. So with some additional time available to me, I took some painting classes. My

whole life I'd been exposed to great art works: paintings, dance, music, architecture, etc. And I have some paintings through my life that my mom saved for me – thanks Miriam!!!! I also continued to sketch in notebooks when I travelled or saw musical or dance events. I found some of these sketches and have been using them for references for many of my paintings the past few years! So, around 2009 was the first time I actually took some classes and studied perspective and composition and color theory and the various media. I loved experimenting with watercolor, pastel, oils, acrylic and Encaustic (bees wax) and still do! My first paintings were with friends and then the classes started helping me to be able to depict the kind of “feeling” I wanted to convey. It's been a long process and a humbling fact of trying to depict this amazing world around us! So I continue working and remind myself to just have FUN!

For a few years vibes player Stefan Bauer, Adam Kolker and trumpeter Fred Jacobs all called her to be part of their groups, in addition to Joe Lovano, and so she got a chance to relax into their musical concepts without having to be the Leader. This was a revelation and long overdue! Adam asked her to sing a few tunes on his Sunnyside recording and Fred led a series of trio gigs in upstate New York with pianist Peter Tomlinson. It felt so good to play only Standard Classic Songs from the Great American Songbook in this drum-less setting that she wanted to document the trio.

Thus Judi recorded “Indigo Moods”, released on Jazzed Media Records in April 2012, which shows Silvano able to synthesize her years of singing jazz repertoire with her playful sense of improvising! The result is a relaxed and easy-going Trio session with her trusted collaborators on this project, Peter Tomlinson on piano and Fred Jacobs on trumpet. Together they create fresh interpretations of her choice of well-known and timeless songs! The repertoire runs from Duke Ellington, to Antonio Carlos Jobim along with the Gershwin brothers, Hoagy Carmichael, Irving Berlin and more. This album is available for download or for an old-fashioned CD purchase at either www.jazzedmedia.com or www.amazon.com.

I started taking classes at the Wallkill River School of Art in Montgomery NY and the director Shawn Del Joyce and all my teachers were extremely encouraging to me. In May 2013 I had my first SOLO ART SHOW, with most of the paintings from the years before I even took a class! So it was a wonderful collaboration of then and now. In addition to surprising many people with this new way of expression, I got some very good feedback

about my use of color and the feeling of movement in some of my paintings. Plus I actually sold some paintings which was a thrill! To know that one of my images touched people enough for them to want to take them home! That was great. And continues to this day!

You may have to stop and take a deep breath just from reading what Judi Silvano has accomplished to date - but she won't! Judi's ideas, spark, talent and enthusiasm know no limits. Alongside her study of the wealth of material in the jazz library and the composers who provide such rich diversity for our listening pleasure and enrichment, Silvano has continued to create her own Original songs from her personal viewpoint.

While playing many of her originals and improvising in live concerts with noted Pianist / Arranger Michael Abene, there was so much enthusiasm around this duo project that they decided to go into the studio to document their partnership. Called "My Dance," this album features all Silvano originals, collaboratively arranged for just Piano and Voice and released on JSL Records in 2015. Four of her songs had lyrics and Six songs did not, leaving the story up to the imagination of the listener! There is a strong spirit of improvisation throughout this album and Maestro Abene plays piano with the abandon of a full orchestra! This is an Exuberant and Passionate collaboration of two daring artists! It was also a motivation for Silvano to continue working on creating the stories that related to each of her compositions without words. It was the direct precursor to the next project that brought new lyrics to many of Silvano's melodies.

While Judi was continually writing new songs and creating lyrics to old songs, she was also arranging a whole different set of her music for her 2-guitar ZEPHYR BAND and working it out on gigs in NYC. These were a bunch of very different songs about life and love and ways of thinking about the world. So when it was time to document the band and get into the recording studio! She asked her mentor and close associate Joe Lovano to be her eyes and ears in the control room and he had some great ideas that brought her songs to life in a fresh and happening way! He also played as only he can, on two of Judi's older songs which she had crafted new Lyrics for, creating his signature magic on Riding a Zephyr and Dust. Other members of the The Zephyr Band are: Adam Kolker on bass clarinet and soprano/tenor sax, Kenny Wessel on guitar, Bruce Arnold on processed guitar, Ratzon B. Harris on bass, Bob Meyer on drums and Todd Isler on percussion. The amazing sound of the 2 guitars accompanying each other

and sharing the space so generously is a pleasure of orchestration in their hands and made the sound of Judi's songs come alive in a unique way.

Judi is thrilled that "Lessons Learned" with her 2-guitar Zephyr Band was released in July 2018 on the Swiss label Unit Records. This 10-song project was co-produced by Judi Silvano and Joe Lovano and showcases Judi's experiences of Life and Love in a style that is half jazz / half folk in style, yet always with Silvano's unique artistry in the foreground. There are gigs booked around the USA with a November 2018 European tour in the works.

While the Zephyr band recording was in the works, Judi started playing some sessions with guitar wiz Bruce Arnold (also part of the Zephyr Band) and they began improvising Electro-Acoustic duos with startling effects! Although Silvano had experimented with electronic gear for a short time in the 1990's, with the guidance of electronics-master Bruce Arnold she was able to actualize the increased possibilities of her vocal imagination. Their listening skills and empathetic sharing of the space allowed them to enhance each other's phrasing and melodic statements to create fully realized songs spontaneously.

When these two artists decided to see where a duet situation would lead them, both were surprised at the ease with which they created engrossing, evocative music. Judi describes it: "We were able to respond to each other in the moment - in the true spirit of Improvisation. This allowed the sonic landscape to flow and created the compositions that evolved. I love working in this collaborative way."

Silvano and Arnold have "chemistry" in abundance. The duets on their first album were mostly improvised, with some composed pieces arranged spontaneously. It shows a duo intensely tuned into every nuance as they follow the sonic twists and turns of these 12 striking songs. And so "Listen To This" was born and released in December 2016 (Muse-Eek). This is some deep listening. Silvano even improvises some words that are ear-opening!

Hailing from Sioux Falls South Dakota, **Bruce Arnold** has been exploring the potentials of his beloved electric guitar for years, using the program SuperCollider to summon up atmospheric soundscapes. His added fascination with 12 tone and pitch class theory as applied to improvisation lends his playing a distinctive harmonic and melodic voice. While **Judi Silvano** may be best known for her extensive jazz catalogue, her passions extend well beyond, to embrace classical and free improvisational music. Plus her background in modern dance adds an underlying spatial physicality.

It is this spatial element that is particularly present here as Silvano utilizes an array of Eventide effects and Jam pedals to enhance her sonic imagination.

Silvano and Arnold have a second recording of Electro-Acoustic duos for guitar and voice, called “Cloudwalking” (Muse-Eek) with a November 2018 release date. This phase of their duo project focuses on a softer and more melodic use of computerized electronic effects that evoke the flow of peaceful soundscapes of relaxation.

Now Silvano and Arnold are recording a more Edgy set of Electro-Acoustic duos and “That’s What That Is” (Muse Eek) is due out in 2019.

They are also collaborating with videographer and artist Michal Shapiro on a series of Live Improvisation Videos. Some of their pieces incorporate computer generated visual effects and other pieces feature a Dancers (Maria Mitchell and Hilary Brown). Projections of these videos are already being shown along with live music performances at select venues and a series of YouTube videos is planned for release in the near future! It’s bringing Judi back home to her roots of Dance and Music multi-media expression. She loves when all the visual, sound and movement arts function together to create a world of exciting and emotional stimuli. Stay tuned for more on this interdisciplinary project.

July 2018 also saw a new SOLO ART EXHIBIT for Judi at the Cornwall Public Library in historic Cornwall, NY in the Hudson Valley. She hung 30 Silvano original paintings up for the whole month. Included are some large Experimental Watercolors which are expressionistic in their depiction of scenes and various other paintings in Oil, Acrylic, Encaustic and traditional Watercolor. There is also a whole section of the show dedicated to Portraits and depictions of Jazz Musicians in bands that she has experienced live in performance. These are either from direct sketches or from photographs that Silvano took at rehearsals or gigs through the years.

It’s a wonderful journey to be able to combine love of music with the love of depicting the event in 2-dimensional form. Her goal is to bring the flat surface of a painting to Life, and to allow the listener to FEEL and HEAR the movement of the music!

Whew! A wild stream of musical expressions and a Joyous life of collaboration with many other creative souls is a true blessing for all involved. We hope to see you at one of our events.

Judi Silvano is off and running again, bringing her abundant talents and tireless spirit to the next endeavor. So, stay in touch for more on this continuing story of Love and Music!

Please visit Judi's website www.judisilvano.com

Judi has also become a Visual Artist, please check her website for EVENTS to see when she will be bringing her joyful and spirited music. And you can also view her artwork there on PAINTINGS.