

THE STEINWAY SESSIONS
DAVID BENOIT



STEINWAY & SONS

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I have recorded over 35 commercial albums but never got around to making a solo piano recording until now. I was given the remarkable opportunity by Jon Feidner to record my most popular songs in my current repertoire, and to also include a new classical-style composition for solo piano.

For this recording we utilized Steinway's Spirio recording technology. Spirio is a high-resolution system that captures an artist's playing and allows the pianist to hear that performance literally reproduced on the Steinway, exactly as it was performed. This was a real pleasure for me because it allowed me to give the best possible performance. The sessions were recorded at the new Steinway Hall in New York City on a new Steinway concert grand D series.

Most of the tracks will be familiar to audiences that have heard me play in concert. Some of the songs were originally recorded with full production including rhythm tracks and in some cases full orchestra. So the challenge here was to adapt these compositions to the solo piano format. Hopefully, you will agree that I have succeeded in that challenge.

Etudes for the Contemporary Pianist

While I was a resident at Montalvo Arts in Saratoga, I had an idea to compose short pieces for piano that would be notated with little to no improvisation. This was a departure for me since most of my compositions are based on song form with the majority of the performance improvised. These "studies" were a chance for me to write completely free-form, abandoning the traditional verse-chorus-bridge-solo format. Coincidentally for the album, this also required me to perform from a score as one would in a traditional classical music recording environment. I am grateful again to Jon for giving me the chance to finally make these available on a CD. They are published in a book called "The Etudes" which can be obtained on line at the Boosey and Hawkes site.

Sit back, relax and enjoy The Steinway Sessions. Pretend for a brief while, that I'm in your living room.

David Benoit, February 2017

DAVID BENOIT

For three decades, the GRAMMY®-nominated pianist/composer/arranger David Benoit has reigned supreme as one of the founding fathers of contemporary jazz. His latest and thirty-fifth recording as a leader and his first with a vocalist, *2 In Love*, was released in 2015 featuring Jane Monheit, the GRAMMY®-nominated, cool-toned chanteuse from New York, who burst on the scene in 1998 as the first runner-up in the Thelonious Monk International Vocalist Competition. Benoit received three GRAMMY® nominations in the categories of Best Contemporary Jazz Performance for "Every Step of the Way" (1989), Best Large Ensemble Performance for GRP All-Star Big Band (1996), and Best Instrumental Composition for "Dad's Room," the latter from the album *Professional Dreamer* (2000). In 2010, Benoit received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Smooth Jazz Awards, and he's worked with an impressive potpourri of musicians including the Rippingtons, Emily Remler, Alphonse Mouzon, Dave Koz, Faith Hill, David Sanborn, CeCe Winans and Brian McKnight. Benoit's film scores include *The Stars Fell on Henrietta* (1995), produced by Clint Eastwood, and *The Christmas Tree*, produced by Sally Field, which was voted Best Score of 1996 by Film Score Monthly. He has served as conductor with a wide range of symphonies including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Asia America Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra. A longtime guest educator with the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, he received that organization's Excellence in Music Award in 2001. His musical selections have been featured on The Weather Channel and his version of Vince Guaraldi's "Cast Your Fate to the Wind" is included on *The Weather Channel Presents: Smooth Jazz 11* (2008). Benoit also currently hosts a morning radio show on KKJZ 88.1 FM in Long Beach, CA.



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was recorded at Steinway Hall, New York City:
Spirio recording made January 29 and May 9, 2016;
audio recording made February 7, 2017.

Producer: Jon Feidner

Engineer: Lauren Sturm

Editing: Kazumi Umeda, Jon Feidner

Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores

Equipment: Pyramix using Merging Technologies

Horus Converters; mixed and mastered through Merging Technologies Horus Converter

Microphones: AEA N8, Schoeps MC6/MK2

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Photos of David Benoit: Lori Stoll

Piano: Steinway Model D #519920 (Hamburg)

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One of the most popular jazz pianists of our day, David Benoit has brought his unique and engaging style to a wide audience. For his debut on the Steinway label, he has recorded some of his most well-known tunes – for the first time on solo piano. The album also features the world premiere recording of his “Etudes for the Contemporary Pianist”.



1	Kei's Song	3:47	Etudes for the Contemporary Pianist		
2	Every Step of the Way	3:07	11	Journey in a Rental Car	4:26
3	Letter to Evan	4:25	12	I Miss You	3:41
4	I Remember Bill Evans	3:31	13	A Solitary Moment by the Ocean	5:06
5	Strange Meadowlark	4:16	14	Lonely Boy	2:11
6	Dad's Room	3:10	15	Scherzo (For Charles Brown)	2:08
7	Once Running Free	3:42	16	Kenji	3:02
8	Rainbows	3:52	17	Betty's Dance	3:06
9	Your Song (John)	3:32	18	Peacock Fallen	4:22
10	Candide / Send in the Clowns (Bernstein/Sondheim)	3:45	19	Linus and Lucy (Guaraldi)	4:07
			Playing time 69:17		



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