

## **Dena DeRose - Vocals and Piano - Two Gifts, Two Nights**

When “*The sly, winning jazz-based vocalist-pianist **Dena DeRose***” [Steve Futterman, *The New Yorker*] performed at The Boat Club in The Lodge at Whitefish Lake in 2011, she and the staff turned the restaurant into an intimate jazz club to rival the best in the world, and there wasn’t a seat to be had because it sold out! What a great night.

Now Dena is coming back. Dena DeRose will perform two shows, one in Bigfork on Sunday, July 21st, and a second in Whitefish on Monday, July 22nd.

The venues couldn’t be more different. On Sunday, July 21st beautiful BruMar Estate will turn its lovely special event lodge into an intimate jazz club for the evening. The Steinway Gallery of Spokane is providing a Steinway grand piano for Dena to play, and the chef at BruMar has planned a wonderful gourmet dinner. On Monday, July 22nd, Dena will play a concert on the Steinway concert grand our community is so proud of at The Whitefish Performing Arts Center.

Dena DeRose has performed in world-class venues all over the globe: Blue Note in NYC, The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Body and Soul in Tokyo, The Jazz Showcase in Chicago, Montmartre in Copenhagen.

Where Dena performs, reviews like these follow:

**“Exudes joy...what soul!”** (Richard Sheinin, *San Jose Mercury*)

**“Stunningly talented pianist/vocalist”** (Alan Bargebuhr, *Cadence*)

**“The most creative and compelling singer-pianist since Shirley Horn.”** (Joel Siegel, *Washington City Paper*)

**“She communicates intense feelings and a gripping sensuality.”** (Serge Baudot, *Jazz Hot*)

*Cadence Magazine* awarded *Album of the Year* and *Best Vocal Jazz Album* to Dena for *Another World* and *I Can See Clearly Now*. In a July

2013 review of her latest recording *Travelin' Light (Live in Antwerp, Belgium)* in *The New York City Jazz Record*, Robert Milburn wrote: " Like [Shirley] Horn, DeRose is a subtle and supple singer who can intimate intensity while remaining quiet...But DeRose doesn't just purr...she can and does swing in those heartbeat tempos associated with Frank Sinatra...And DeRose is also an exquisite connoisseur of songs, especially dark, dramatic ballads like Johnny Mandel's *I Never Told You*, Jobim's *Portrait in Black and White*, Bill Evans *We Will Meet Again* and Meredith D'Ambrosio's lyrics to Miles Davis' *Blue in Green*. There are also four great tunes with Johnny Mercer lyrics, including Marian McPartland's little known gem *Twilight World*."

*Dena DeRose - Live at Jazz Standard Volume 1 & 2*, have garnered Grammy nominations. *Live at Jazz Standard Vol. 2* was chosen one of the "Top 10 CD's of 2008" by *All About Jazz*, *Downbeat Magazine*, and the *Jazz Journalists Association*. It was in the Top 50 on *Jazzweek* radio charts for over 12 weeks.

Dena began picking out melodies on a toy organ when she was three. When she was four years old, she told people that when she grew up she wanted to be a piano player in New York City. She studied classical piano until the music of Count Basie got into her and she fell in love with jazz. At 17 she began studying with the only jazz teacher in her home town of Binghamton, New York.

By the time she went to college, Dena was performing regularly, teaching private students and practicing so many hours a day, she sometimes slept in her studio. New York City was four hours away. Still, she'd often make the trip to see her piano idols Hank Jones, Mulgrew Miller and Kenny Barron. Her dream of becoming a piano player in New York City came true in 1991. But she worked so hard, and practiced such long hours that she came down with an aggravated case of carpal tunnel syndrome and had to stop playing piano altogether. Funny how things work out. That tragedy taught her she could sing when the music had to come out of her, and the piano wasn't available.

Two years later when she'd recovered enough to play piano again, she'd become a seasoned singer who could accompany herself masterfully, and an accomplished jazz pianist who could also sing. Dena turned a looming disaster into a blessing by finding another outlet for her outstanding musicianship.

A brilliant performer, Dena is an equally dedicated jazz educator. She has been on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, NYU, The New School and Long Island University. Currently, DeRose heads the Jazz Vocal Department at The University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. Clinics and workshops have taken her to the Dave Brubeck Institute in Oakland, CA, The Jazz School in Berkley, CA and the Stanford Jazz Workshop. She's been a judge at The Thelonious Monk Vocal Competition and has served for six years on the NJ Star Ledger Scholarship Awards. She's been featured on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *Marian McPartlands' Piano Jazz*. For more information check out Dena's website at <http://www.DenaDeRose.com>.

**SUNDAY, JULY 21st, 8 PM,**  
**Cocktails at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm, Show 8pm Limited Seating**  
**BRUMAR ESTATE, BIGFORK**  
**TICKETS \$27 - Dinner Separate**

**MONDAY, JULY 22nd, 8 PM**  
**WHITEFISH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**TICKETS \$23 - \$25 - \$27 - \$29**

**Tickets Available at <http://SingerandSimpson.com>**

**For assistance please call 406-730-2817**

This event is sponsored by **Don "K" Subaru** and produced by Singer & Simpson Productions.