

Robin Connell & Paul Brewer

Quotes – A sampling of reviews, quotes & thank you notes!

PRESENTER QUOTES

'Our audience really enjoyed your music and voice. Many people told me they really learned a lot about jazz, too, and appreciated your mini-lessons!' – Renee Hintz, Michigan Legacy Art Park, Crystal Mountain, MI

'*Robin Connell* is a true professional entertainer! She enchanted our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Aquinas College with music from the Great American Songbook. She sings, plays keyboard and delights all who are lucky enough to see her perform. She is absolutely a must see in Grand Rapids!' - Sheila Pantlind, Director of OLLI at Aquinas College

'*Robin and Paul*, ably backed by Warren Jones and Scott Veenstra, offered up a night of great performances. As always, Robin's piano work and Paul's trombone work were impeccable and seemingly effortless.' – West Michigan Jazz Society, April 2014 newsletter

'*Robin and Paul* hit just the right 'notes' in their presentation *Because of You*. It was a wonderful musical treat for our Valentine's Day Dinner-Concert.' – Judy Weersing, Women's City Club

'What a delightful concert you performed for us. I have heard nothing but compliments!' – Cynthia Johnson, Events Coordinator, Beacon Hill, Grand Rapids MI

'*Paul's* weighty but smooth trombone, *Robin's* skillful keyboard, several standards, original compositions, and fascinating stories [all] made for an interesting and entertaining evening!' – West MI Jazz Society, March 2012 newsletter

MEDIA QUOTES

'*Robin Connell* is nimble at the piano in her clever arrangements'- Anna Kisselgoff, The New York Times

'*Paul Brewer* is one of the best jazz trombone artists in the Southwest' – Edmond Evening News

'Contrary to much of the scuttlebutt, there is living jazz between New York and California! Listen to this CD and agree with me, *Robin* has put together quite a listenable potpourri of tunes along with her Colorado and Kansas friends' - Manny Albam, composer/arranger (liner notes on *'Travelin'*)

'*Connell's* striking material showed harmonic sophistication and a tinge of haunting introspection. Her compositions were a highlight of last year's festival. A year later, she's still churning out gems' - Bill Milkowski, NYC jazz critic, writing for the Greeley Tribune.

'*Connell's* compositions captured the essence of urban movement.' - David Beach, The Brooklyn Phoenix

'*Paul Brewer* is a sensitive, swinging trombonist' – Billy Taylor (liner notes on *Persona*)

'On *Robin Connell's* very classy new album, *Travelin'*, two tracks stand out – a reharmonized but swinging arrangement of 'Summertime' with a free-from Connell intro, and a Mingus-like treatment of 'Sweet Georgia Brown.' - Jeff Bradley, The Denver Post

'Beautiful big trombone sound by *Paul Brewer*. Paul's improvisation is wonderful. He never sacrifices melody for technique. Each note is a gem.' – Louie Bellson

'*Connell's* most exciting talents lie in composing... a great tasting blend of jazz, blues, & rock.' – Mary Kramer, The Grand Rapids Press

'*Connell's* piece 'Monkey See Monkey Do,' provided some of the most provocative and daring moments I have heard in my three years of covering the UNC Jazz festival. This is a composer of great promise and definitely worth watching' - Bill Milkowski, NYC jazz critic, writing for the Greeley Tribune.

THANK YOU NOTES [private events]

'Thank you for performing at the Midwest Arts Conference Closing Party at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The trio added the perfect touch to the party's ambiance' – Angela Urbanz, Arts MidWest, Minneapolis, MN

'Thank you for the fantastic job at B.O.B. Your trio added the touch of class I was looking for.' – Bill Boersma, CEO Opportunity Concepts, Grand Rapids, MI

'Your trio proved to be accomplished, talented musicians and I appreciated your ability to read the crowd and perform accordingly' – Roi Couch, Brooklyn Legal Services, NY

'You and the orchestra played the biggest role in the smashing success of our 21st anniversary. People loved the music and I am sure it was obvious to you when you saw so many people on the dance floor.' - Maggie Divelbiss, Dir., Sangre De Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo, CO

'Everyone enjoyed the entertainment so much, we didn't want the music to stop'
Chris Sarcho, Greeley Gas Company, CO

'Thank You for the wonderful job you did at my wedding. Your true talent and smooth ability working with the Binghamton staff contributed to making it a less stressful day for me and I really appreciated it.' - Patty Kiesling-Daurizio, Binghamton, NY

THANK YOU NOTES [Clinician & Guest Artist appearances]

Dear Robin

On behalf of the IAJE Executive Board and International Staff, thank you for your outstanding services as an IAJE Artist Outreach Network clinician. From reading your evaluation comments, I see that your sessions were a smashing success and well received by those in attendance – Bravo!
Greg Carroll, Director of Education, IAJE, Manhattan, KS

Dear Ms. Connell

Congratulations on an outstanding job as conductor of the 1998 Massachusetts All State Jazz Band. The concert was excellent. Your own commissioned composition was a first for MMEA, a tradition that I hope we will continue. Your work with the students was exemplary. They enjoyed your rehearsal style and technique, and the results were obviously successful. Thank you for your excellent work with our students.
Noreen Diamond Burdett
Massachusetts Music Educators' Association

Dear Ms. Connell,

Thank you for the clinic and performance with your outstanding ensemble. It was definitely an exciting experience for our students to rehearse an original composition with the composer. Your talent and enthusiasm was very inspiring to our young people. We look forward to working with you again soon!
James Lawrence,
Muskegon High School

Dear Robin,

Thank you very, very much for helping make the "Jazz for Kids" project that was part of the International Association of Jazz Educators conference in Atlanta, Georgia, a tremendous success. Your work with the children and teachers was commendable and we truly appreciate it.
LaRue Brown-Watson
Clifford Brown Jazz Foundation, Inc.

Dear Robin and Paul,

Thank you for all your work with our students on February 6 and for a wonderful evening of jazz. We are looking forward to seeing you perform again this weekend.
Martha Violet
Western State College of Colorado

