

# HEATHER PIERSON



*(Photo: William Lulow)*

*"Heather is like two great acts in one, sliding from sweet acoustic Appalachian old-timey vibe with Patty Griffinesque lyrics to brassy New Orleans blues piano with a bone thrown to Bessie Smith."*

**DC Bloom | Lone Star Music Magazine**

*"Heather is a musicians' musician. Best piano-based folk since early Joni Mitchell. And there's a great message here."*

**Ken Nagelberg | WHYR**

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## HEATHER PIERSON - HONEST, HEARTFELT, SOULFUL

Heather Pierson is an award-winning pianist, singer/songwriter, songleader, and performer whose inspiring live performances and growing catalog of releases delve into Americana, blues, New Orleans jazz, vocal chants, instrumental piano, and folk. She is best known for her virtuosity at the piano and her bell-tone vocals, and her songs and musicianship embody joy, honesty, playfulness, and a desire to share from the heart. Heather's twelfth album, *Lines and Spaces*, is her most ambitious and most personal to date. Released on November 15, 2019, it is a multi-genre tour de force, featuring performances from her Acoustic Trio bandmates Davy Sturtevant and Shawn Nadeau. In 2018, she and singer/songwriter Bernice Martin launched their *Heart Songs & Circle Songs* community singing project, and the first volume of their songbook and companion recording has found its way into the repertoire of church, community, and hospice choirs all over the world. A second volume of their songbook was released in February 2021.

After enjoying modest success with the release of several solo records (*Make It Mine* in 2010; *The Open Road* in 2012; *The Hard Work of Living* in 2013; *Motherless Child* in 2014), Heather burst upon the national folk scene in 2015 with her Acoustic Trio. The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio features Shawn Nadeau on upright bass and Davy Sturtevant on, as Heather often puts it from stage, "everything else"—guitar, mandolin, dobro, fiddle, cornet. In their able hands, these three veteran musicians have catapulted Heather's live performances of her deep well of original music with intricate instrumental arrangements and stirring three-part vocal harmonies. The trio's debut EP, *Still She Will Fly*, was released in May 2015, and its title track was the #2 single on the Folk radio charts for the year in 2015, and three other songs were also in the Top 100 singles on Folk radio in 2015. The trio's full-length album, *Singin'*, was released on June 30, 2017, and debuted at #1 on the Folk radio charts.

Heather also leads her own jazz trio, with Shawn Nadeau on bass and Craig Bryan on drums, performing her equal parts New Orleans-Oscar-Brubeck jazz piano leanings for audiences all over the Northeast. The jazz trio performs a rich variety of Heather's originals, jazz and blues standards, and unique re-workings of familiar American music. They are best known for their annual Charlie Brown Christmas tour, wherein they present their interpretations of the work of the late great jazz pianist and composer Vince Guaraldi.

While the 2020 pandemic has stopped touring life for Heather and her ensembles, it has not slowed Heather's creativity. Heather had a viral hit in March 2020 with her *Toilet Paper Song*, and released both a moving single, *Beside The Firelight*, about the death of George Floyd, and her latest collection of original meditation chants, *Be Here Now*. Since March 2020, Heather has been live-streaming every week both solo and with partner Shawn Nadeau on bass, leading online community sings, and has launched both her Etsy shop for her original artwork and her Patreon for her new songs and poetry.

Throughout her colorful career, her eclectic skill set continues to propel her onto concert hall stages and into barrooms, coffeehouses, resort hotels, living rooms, and churches. Her nearly non-stop performance schedule speaks of her tireless work ethic and endless devotion to her crafts. Defying genre and classification and yet fully embracing all musical styles, Heather is an artist who speaks the language of music in as many dialects as her abilities will allow. Her life's work, she says, is to share her love of music and her gratitude for life with others—one song, one heart, and one mind at a time.

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