

Barbara Reney is a vocalist, lyricist, composer and arranger from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Early musical influences range from Gospel, through R&B / Soul, North American & Brazilian Jazz, Pop, Latin & other World music.

She earned a music degree from Concordia University, Jazz program, studying with composer-arranger and bassist Don Habib, jazz trumpeter and composer Charles Ellison, and multi-instrumentalist and arranger Andrew Homsey. She also studied voice with Mary-Lou Gauthier, Carmen Metha, and Jane Keyes along with piano and jazz improvisation with bass player Leon Feigenbaum and pianist, composer, arranger Maury Kaye.

In the late 1970's she became part of the Maury Kaye Project band which featured Maury's original compositions and highly unique arrangements of instrumental and vocal Jazz standards. Apart from the original hard bebop roots, the overall feel of the group drew inspiration from the popular high energy groups of the time led by instrumentalists Joe Zawinul, Chick Corea, Airto Barbieri, vocalists Betty Carter, Flora Purim, Sarah Vaughn Al Jarreau. The MK Project band included Kaye on keys, Jean Cyr on bass, Lou Williamson on drums, Reney on vocals. Guest players such as Charles Papasoff, Bob Mover, Charles Ellison, Billy Robinson, Sayed Al-Khyber, Charles Biddles, Michael Gauthier, Don Franks, Skipper Dean, Erin Heinamen participated as guests. In Toronto the group formation included Buff Allen and Mike Rosen on drums, Neil Swenson

and John Forrest on bass, Carlos Lopes on guitar, Kaye and Reney. While in Toronto Barbara wrote and performed on studio recordings.

In the 1980's Barbara traveled and studied in Latin America absorbing traditional folkloric as well as modern rhythmic structures and harmonic flavours which directly influenced her jazz fusion compositional style going forward.

In the 1990's, along with the classroom teaching materials, Barbara wrote and produced a CD of original songs in English and French for the Miyupimaatisiwin CD project titled: 'Let's Live Well' as part of the Northern Quebec Cree Health and Suicide Prevention Curriculum.

Current projects include a new CD of original compositions and arrangements titled 'Sometimes I'm Happy'. She is supported on this latest project by world class jazz musicians such as Ron Di Lauro, Jim Hillman, Buff Allen, Gary Schwartz, Steve Hall, Dave Turner, Jean-Pierre Zanella, Charles Ellison, Carlos Lopes, Ian Lebofsky, Johanne Desforges, Skipper Dean, Michael Gauthier, Jean Cyr.