

Robin Meloy Goldsby

"Goldsby has a singular and life-embracing voice." Bill Brent, Author's Den

"Goldsby's tales are often laugh-out loud funny, sometimes poignant, and always abundantly human." Kathy Parsons, MainlyPiano.com

Pianist, author, and composer Robin Meloy Goldsby performs live in a variety of settings. She often serves as a cultural ambassador for European organizations dedicated to transatlantic relations. In July 2012, she performed for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at the Eric Warburg Awards, sponsored by Atlantik Brücke, e.V (Berlin). She has presented her reading/concert program for numerous U.S. Consulates in Europe; for Amerika Haus, e.V. NRW; for Steinway in New York, Berlin, and Vienna; and for the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) in Marrakesh, Vilnius, and Dublin. Goldsby's one-woman performance includes stories from her books along with her solo piano compositions. She also performs regularly at Schlosshotel Lerbach, a five-star castle hotel in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany.

## **The Music**

Robin Meloy Goldsby composes songs, plays the piano and writes books about music. Fans describe her melodies—and her stories—as peaceful, inspirational, and magical. Robin grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attended Chatham College before moving to New York City in 1980. She performed for over ten years in many of New York City's leading hotels. Her credits include The Grand Hyatt, The Plaza, The Pierre, and The Waldorf Astoria. Robin is known for her solo piano performances at New York's Marriott Marquis Hotel where she played the 1985 grand opening and spent the next seven years cultivating her skills and captivating diverse audiences with her unique style.

In 1994, Goldsby released her recording debut of standards and popular classics, *Somewhere In Time* (Bass Lion Music). Goldsby's arrangements, honed over the years during her tenure as a hotel pianist in New York are "the most beautiful and unique arrangements of these songs I've ever heard" according to producer/pianist Robin Spielberg. Shortly after the release of *Somewhere in Time*, Goldsby moved to Cologne, Germany, with her husband, jazz bassist John Goldsby. Over the course of several years (in between studying German and raising their two children), Goldsby composed fifteen original compositions for solo piano. When it came time to record the work, Goldsby called on Robin Spielberg. *Twilight* (Bass Lion

Music) was recorded in Cologne, Germany at Topaz Studios.

*Twilight* features songs inspired by Robin Goldsby's journey to Europe ("One Woman's Journey"), the birth of her daughter ("The Light In Julia's Eyes"), romance ("When Stars Dance"), and loneliness ("Miss You Most of All") The three-movement piano suite, "Nantucket Solitude" is dedicated to the memory of Fred Rogers—known to most Americans as Mister Rogers—a family friend and the employer of Robin's father, Bob Rawsthorne, a musician who played drums and percussion on the *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* program for 35 years. The *Twilight* CD package includes a sixteen page two-language booklet (English-German) with Goldsby's poetic musings and stories about her compositions.

*Songs from the Castle* (Bass Lion Music) offers a collection of eleven original compositions and several beautiful standards, *Songs from the Castle* mingles Robin's graceful melodies with the artistic and relaxed arrangements that have become her trademark. *Songs from the Castle* pays tribute to the places Robin once dreamed about, and to Schlosshotel Lerbach, the European castle where she currently performs.

*Waltz of the Asparagus People* (Bass Lion Music) is Goldsby's newest CD release. Monica Kern of PianoWorld.com says: "Robin Meloy Goldsby's playing is delicate and flawless, whether she is playing covers of well-known piano works (such as Yiruma's "River Flows in You" and the "Theme from Romeo and Juliet") or her own compositions. Goldsby has a distinctive style and a delicacy of touch that nonetheless conveys a strong sense of melody." The pieces on *Waltz of the Asparagus People* correspond with the stories in Goldsby's book of the same title.

Goldsby's holiday musical for children, *Hobo and the Forest Fairies* (Bass Lion Music/WDR), was written originally for the stage, adapted for broadcast as a radio play, translated into German, and produced by the WDR (Europe's largest public television and radio production house) for broadcast on Christmas day, 2003. The musical—the story of a giant rabbit rescued by a rag-tag family of forest fairies, one of whom is wheelchair bound— is a comical and touching tribute to the power of a child's imagination.

## **The Words**

Robin Goldsby writes lyrics for other composers and performers. She writes with European jazz phenomenon singer/guitarist Peter Fessler, a collaboration that has thus far produced three beautiful CDs: *Blue Summer*, *Landscape Tapestry*, and *Fly!* (The C.A.R.E Music Group) in

Europe. Currently, Goldsby continues her work with Fessler, in addition to penning lyrics for Jessica Gall (*Little Big Soul* and *Riviera*), Brazilian jazz star Joyce Moreno, German R&B sensation Jeff Cascaro (*Soul of a Singer, Mother-Brother, The Other Man*), and Till Broenner, who produced and co-wrote (with Robin) the Curtis Stigers song, "Christmas is Never" for *The Christmas Album* (Universal). In 2010, Goldsby's collaboration with Joyce Moreno—*Slow Music*—earned a Latin-Grammy nomination for Best Brazilian Album. Currently, she is working on new projects with Peter Fessler and Joyce Moreno.

## The Books

*Piano Girl: A Memoir* (Backbeat Books) Goldsby's first book, made its hardcover debut in spring, 2005. A giddy mixture of droll hilarity and pathos, *Piano Girl* is an entertaining and enlightening memoir of music and life as a cocktail pianist. The book provides a rare glimpse into the comedies, tragedies, and mundane miracles witnessed from the player's side of the grand piano. *Piano Girl* received a prestigious "starred review" from Publishers Weekly and was honored as one of the picks of the summer by Book Sense, the leading organization representing independent bookstores in the United States. Goldsby's many radio appearances include NPR's All Things Considered, The Leonard Lopate Show in New York City, and several appearances on Marian McPartland's NPR Piano Jazz. *Piano Girl* is available—world-wide—in paperback, hardcover, and eBook editions.

The *Piano Girl* journey continues with *Waltz of the Asparagus People* (Bass Lion Publishing). The book, a long-awaited sequel to *Piano Girl* follows American pianist Robin and her family to Europe, recounting their adventures and frustrations as they learn a new language, adapt to a new culture, and find new friends. Sometimes hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking, and always insightful, Goldsby's lyrical stories reveal the trials and triumphs of an expatriate musician's life, as Goldsby connects her music to family, friends, and home, past and present. *Walzer der Sparelmenschen* (Bücker und Sulzer Verlag) is Dagmar Breitenbach's excellent German adaptation of Goldsby's stories. Both the English and German versions of the book are available worldwide in paperback and eBook formats.

Goldsby's fiction debut, *RHYTHM: A Novel* (Bass Lion Publishing), is also available in paperback and Kindle editions. Told in the voice of drummer Jane Bowman—Rhythm traces a young musician's artistic and emotional development over the course of fifteen years, as she builds her career and learns to cope with her mother's death. With humor and passion, the

heartwarming story reveals the tragic beauty of human resilience, the restorative power of love and laughter, and the way one girl's music—steady, solid, and courageous—helps to mend her shattered heart.

Robin's next book, a collection of themed short stories about musicians (what else?) remains a work in progress, but it's on the release agenda for Fall 2013. She also plans to release a new album of solo piano compositions in Spring, 2013, which will feature her composition "Mirage."