

Barbara Higbie Biography

Barbara Higbie is a Grammy-nominated, Grammy Award-winning pianist/composer/ singer songwriter as well as a championship fiddler. The Los Angeles Times described her music as “a ray of bright sunlight,” and the San Francisco Chronicle calls her “full of life and brilliant in her playing, the most exciting musician we’ve heard.” In addition to being the first female instrumentalist on the Windham Hill label, Higbie has appeared with musicians as different as Santana, Bonnie Raitt, the Kronos Quartet, Milton Nascimento, and Spyro Gyra, recording on over 100 CDs. In 2011, Barbara was the first-ever artist-in-residence at the prestigious Jazz Club Yoshi’s. A graduate of Mills College (where she was a student of Terry Riley’s) and the recipient of a Watson Fellowship, she collected traditional music throughout West Africa. At 23, Higbie recorded her Windham Hill 1982 duo release *Tideline* with violinist Darol Anger, which garnered a four-star review in *Downbeat* magazine. In 1984, she co-lead a group with Anger including Mike Marshall, Andy Narell, and Todd Phillips to record *Live at Montreux*. The group became the Montreux Band (with Anger, Marshall, and Michael Manring) and toured internationally for 12 years. Higbie’s composition “To Be” became a radio staple of the 1980s, a TV theme song in Italy, and a video with heavy rotation on VH1. Her early Windham Hill titles have recently been reissued on Adventure Music. Higbie’s solo work has made the top ten lists of the *Washington Post* and *Performing Songwriter* magazine. The most recent of her six solo releases, *Scenes from Life*, was recorded in 2014 at Lucas Lim’s Skywalker Sound. Higbie recalls: “When I first met Will Ackerman in 1981, it felt like I’d encountered a human cyclone. If Will became excited about music, true magic happened. Before we knew it, Will was leading the charge and it seemed the whole world was following. It was a joyous time with a warm family feeling among the musicians. I recall truly breathtaking concerts at Davies Symphony Hall, the Montreux Jazz Festival, in a castle in Italy, and in a grand palace in Stockholm. Will Ackerman at the helm of Windham Hill is the truest example of a visionary in action that I have ever witnessed. It’s an honor to be part of these historic concerts, with Will and Alex. They are beautiful artists and truly good human beings.”

<http://barbarahigbie.com>