

MUSIC

Pianist Yoko Yates shares the ‘Mystic Life’

By Heather Shelton
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Pianist/composer/educator Yoko Yates has released a new recording, “Mystic Life,” via SteepleChase Records.

Yates, born in Sapporo City, Japan, began her keyboard study at age 4 and was exposed to a variety of music by her music-loving family. Though classically trained, her interest in improvisation led her take innovative approaches and to develop the style of composition she is known for today.

Yates’ compositions reflect her multi-faceted artistry, her experience with a variety of musical genres and the visual arts and her love of nature and storytelling. She has composed music for films, media and literary events. Her music is in several international award-winning documentaries including “Mothers’ Way, Daughters’ Choice” directed by Kyoko Gasha, who describes her musical contributions as going beyond what words can express. She also wrote pieces for “9.11, My Journey of Jasmine” by author Akiko Endo and was awarded a Cultural Merit Scholarship from Sapporo City and a Professional Music Scholarship from Berklee College of Music in Boston.

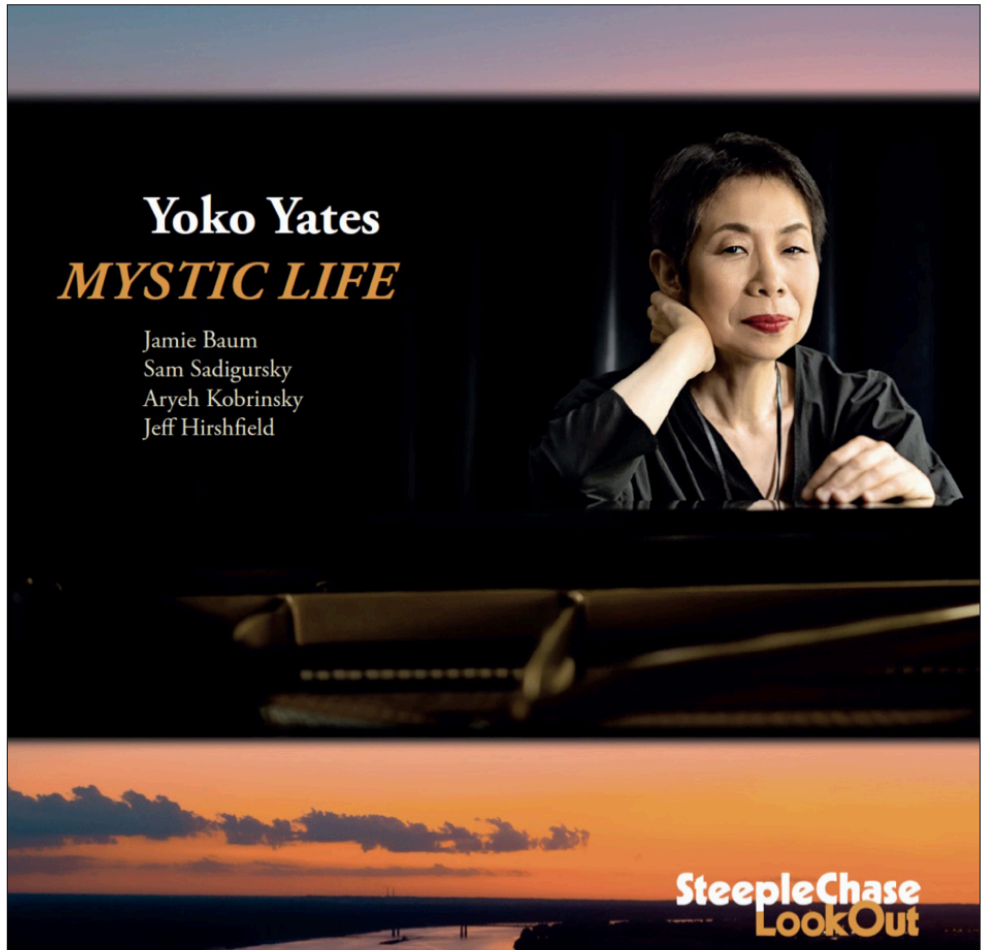
Graduating from Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in music, summa cum laude, she went on to receive a master’s degree in educa-

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tion from Lesley University in Cambridge and continued her doctoral study in music education at Columbia University, Teachers College in New York, where she was awarded a teaching assistantship and scholarship. She has been a member of the piano faculty at Greenwich House Music School in Manhattan and Brooklyn Conservatory of Music since 1996. At Brooklyn Conservatory she served as a piano chair from 2011 to 2013.

All through her schooling and teaching years, she has maintained a performing career, playing in both traditional concert settings as well as in clubs and special events in Boston, New York and Japan.

Her new album “Mystic Life” contains 10 of her original compositions performed by Yates, as well as musicians Jamie Baum, Sam Sadigursky, Aryeh Kobrinsky and Jeff Hirshfield.



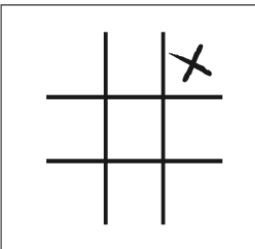
Yoko Yates
MYSTIC LIFE

Jamie Baum
Sam Sadigursky
Aryeh Kobrinsky
Jeff Hirshfield

SteepleChase
LookOut

SUBMITTED

Pictured is the cover of pianist/composer/educator Yoko Yates’ new recording, “Mystic Life,” released via SteepleChase Records.



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