



Suzzette Ortiz, hailing from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, is a gifted pianist, singer, arranger and composer. She is versatile in many musical styles and holds a **Bachelors degree** in *Piano Performance* from the **Music Conservatory of Puerto Rico** as well as a **Masters degree** in *Music Education* from **Temple University** (Philadelphia, PA). She also studied *Choral Conducting* at **Julliard School of Music** (New York, NY) and at the **University Of The Arts** (Philadelphia, Pa). Suzzette has studied vocal improvisation with singer **Bobby McFerrin** and **Rhiannon Watson**.

Suzzette has also studied with great piano master teachers including: **Jimmy Amadei**, (pianist for Mel Torme); **Cesar “Pupi” Pedroso**, (former pianist of renown Cuban ensemble; Los Van – Van); **Orlando Fiol** from Philadelphia and acclaimed Jazz pianist **Sumi Tonooka**. She is also a **Member** of the **International Women in Jazz Society**, **BMI**, **South Jersey Steinway Society** and the **ACDA** (American Choral Directors Association).

Suzzette has traveled vastly both national and internationally not only as a piano performer but as a choral conductor. She is considered one of the premier female piano players in the tri state area. As a pianist, she continues to perform with many musicians throughout the area of New Jersey, Philadelphia, and New York. She has opened for the likes of the late **Tito Puente**, **Compay Segundo** (Buena Vista Social Club), **Eddie Palmieri**, **Charlie Palmieri**, **Brenda K Starr**, **Hilton Ruiz**, **Lalo Rodriguez**, **Tito Nieves** among others.

Suzzette has also recorded with many local areas and many of her compositions have been recorded by local and International ensembles. Two years ago, she recorded with **Orquesta La Paz** from Philadelphia. Their album, “**Déjà Vu**” was nominated for **4 Latin Grammys**.

Suzzette is currently the **Choral Director** for the **International Award Winning Concert Choir** from the **Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy** in **Camden, New Jersey**. Her work as a teacher has been recognized multiple times receiving all kinds of awards including **Teacher of the Year** in four occasions. One of them was “**Wal-Mart’s State Teacher of the Year**”.

Suzzette has just released her first all original **Latin Jazz CD** entitled “**Renacer**”,(Re-birth). Her music not only portrays Latin Jazz but world music as well; a reflection of people she met and places that she has visited.

She is currently **writing** her **First Book of Memoirs** which **documents** her long years of **teaching music** from the **perspective** of a **Performer Turned Teacher**. The book is to serve as a **guide for new teachers wanting to teach in urban schools**.

In the **summer 2011**, Suzzette joined a panel of outstanding teachers at the **Oberlin Conservatory**, as part of a conference entitled “**Music in America**”. She has also participated **Rowan University’s Summer Programs** to **share her experiences as a teacher** with **aspiring teachers wanting to teach in urban schools**.

Ms. **Suzzette Ortiz Biography** has been **published** in “**Who’s Who Among America**”, “**Who’s Who Among Women**” and “**Who’s Who among Teachers**”.

Overcoming many social and cultural obstacles to share her message of hope and love through music, Suzzette Ortiz is truly making a difference!