

## Mp3 Holly Holmes - The Climb



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An invigorating mix of jazz standards, Brazilian songs, and modern standards by composers such as Wayne Shorter and Pat Metheny with Holly's original lyrics, the Climb wraps you up in inventive improvisations, clever arrangements, and sensitive readings. 10 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Vocals, JAZZ: Traditional Jazz Combo Details: Holly unites several passions in hopes of inspiring and challenging listeners on an intimate level. Founded in the jazz tradition, one can hear in her live and recorded music Brazilian song and Portuguese language, lyrics inspired by the American folk and acoustic music tradition, and unique instrumentation, including accordion, organ, guitar with e-bow, string quartet, and mandolin. The resultant effect has been described as both ethereal and warm, traditional and modern, introspective and inviting. Her debut album, "the Climb," reflects Holly's varied influences. One can hear Brazilian music, unusual arrangements of jazz standards, and jazz-tinged covers of popular songs. She is particularly fond of penning lyrics to instrumental jazz standards as demonstrated by Wayne Shorter's "Fee Fi Fo Fum," renamed "Siren Song" with the addition of the lyric. Holly stays true to Pat Metheny's delicate ballad "the Road to You," seen here as "the Road to Me." The first recitation is a beautiful wordless solo, followed by an elegant piano solo, and closing with her original lyric. Perhaps most remarkably, Holly puts the jazz back in jazz singer with her inventive improvisation, executed tastefully on several tracks including Siren Song and I Thought About You. As well as being the bandleader for the album, Holly also co-engineered, co-mixed, and produced it. Holly earned a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Following her graduation in 2000, Holmes was awarded an internship with the jazz programming department at Washington DC's prestigious Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. There she assisted with the Dr. Billy Taylor radio series as well as working as an audio engineer for other live performances featuring Nnenna Freelon,

Kurt Elling, Freddy Cole, and several others. In 2003, Holly traveled to Brazil as guest vocalist of a student and alumni jazz quintet representing WMU. The success of the tour inspired her to plan a return trip in order to study Portuguese language and the guitar. In June 2004, Holly was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo to help make this happen. Holly spent six months living in Salvador and Belo Horizonte, Brazil in 2004-05. There she became fluent in Portuguese and studied guitar with Celso Moreira, a well-known teacher, player, and brother of Brazilian guitarist and recording artist Juarez Moreira. Holly's next recording project will feature works by and inspired by the Brazilian artists she met on this trip.

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