

ANDREA WOLPER
VOCALIST, SONGWRITER
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Described as both "utterly original" and "a singer with an uncanny emotional touch for the past 50 years of jazz," Andrea Wolper, ""brings songs to life, whatever their source, working in a milieu that begins with jazz and reaches out to embrace an expressive area that is uniquely her own." *

Andrea appears in clubs, festivals, and concert spaces in the U.S. and abroad. Performance credits as a leader in her New York home base include the Blue Note, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola (Jazz at Lincoln Center), Mezzrow, JVC New York Jazz Festival, Kitano, Arts for Arts Evolving Series, and more, and she has toured across the U.S., in Europe, and beyond.

One of the "great jazz singers" included in Scott Yanow's, "The Jazz Singers: The Ultimate Guide" (BackBeat Books), Andrea is as accomplished with the Great American Songbook as she is with more unusual repertoire and spontaneous improvisation. Andrea has also made her mark as a songwriter; Cadence magazine calls her "easily superior to the ever expanding population in the singer/songwriter category," and she has been awarded composing fellowships by Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, Ucross Foundation, Newnan ArtRez, and Kimmel Harding Nelson Center.

Andrea's third CD, "Parallel Lives" (Jazzed Media) received rave reviews, and was included on several Top Jazz CDs and Notable Releases lists for 2011. Co-produced by Todd Barkan, it features her group with guitarist Michael Howell, pianist Kris Davis, bassist Ken Filiano, and drummer Michael T.A. Thompson. Her previous release, "The Small Hours" (VarisOne.Jazz), built around her trio with guitarist Ron Affif and Ken Filiano, was produced by Barkan, and features drummers Victor Lewis and Jamey Haddad, as well as guest artists Lou Marini (flute) and Frank London (trumpet and flugelhorn).

Andrea also appears as a side person across jazz genres, from holding the vocal chair with the straight ahead Heavenly Big Band to appearing in several performance and recording projects of free jazz bassist William Parker. In addition, she was one third of the improvising trio *TranceFormation*, with Filiano and the late pianist Connie Crothers; the trio's live CD, "TranceFormation in Concert" (New Artists) was a best vocal CD selection in the 2012 Downbeat critics' polls.

Andrea curated the "Why Not Experiment?" series at Whynot Jazz Room in New York city for nearly two years (2014-15). She is a past President of International Women in Jazz, and served on the Advisory Board of the Jazz Vocal Coalition.

Andrea offers singing lessons in her private studio, and conducts clinics in jazz vocal performance, and workshops and master classes on performance and improvisation.

Fun Facts: Andrea is an accomplished writer whose journalism and poetry have appeared in numerous publications. Among her works are two books, "Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives" (with Julie S. Peters; Routledge) and "The Actor's City Sourcebook" (Watson-Guptill). In addition, she's spent time on the stage, and came to New York from her native California to attend the prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. She earned a black belt in Shotokan Karate, and has two dust-gathering trophies to tell the tale.

* Quotes: AllAboutJazz / Tucson Citizen / International Review of Music

ANDREA WOLPER, CONTINUED

SELECTED APPEARANCES AS LEADER/CO-LEADER

NEW YORK: Blue Note • Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola • JVC New York Jazz Festival • Mezzrow • The Stone • Kitano • 55 Bar 8 • Cornelia Street Café • Zinc Bar • Arts for Arts Evolving Series • Midtown Jazz at Mid Day • TOUR: Edgefest (Ann Arbor, MI) • The Outpost (NM) • Donne in Musica Festival (Italy) • ISIM Festival (NY, MI) • Centro Cultural de Belem (Portugal) • SABC concert hall (Cape Town) • A-Trane (Berlin) • Donne in Musica (Italy) • Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz • Jazz on the Plazz (CA) • California Jazz Conservatory • Dizzy's San Diego • Blue Whale (Los Angeles) • JazzFest Kassel

A superb singer...with a sultry, late-night sound.
(Andrew Gilbert, Contra Costa Times)

Her warm, open rapport with the audience allowed us to willingly enter into her world of music . . . She pulls you into her spell... Keep an eye out for her name. She's well worth a visit to whatever nightclub is hosting her. (Kevin Scott Hall, BistroAwards.com)

The music I'm thankful for...The singing of Cassandra Wilson, Carol Welsman, Denise Donatelli, Angelique Kidjo, Jane Monheit, **Andrea Wolper**, Roberta Gambarini, Sheila Jordan, Gretchen Parlato, Tierney Sutton, Karrin Allyson, Nnenna Freelon, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Cat Conner, Cheryl Bentley, and many of the others in the overflowing arena of talented female singers.
(Don Heckman International Review of Music)

An audacious artist [who] flouts genre limitations, singing songs for the love of it and delivering an inventive, thrilling, appealing musical vision. (Jordan Richardson, Blogcritics)

Refusing, in utterly refreshing ways, to follow each song's furrowed emotional path, she instead opens them up for wider examination, demonstrating that for each yin there is a yang. . . . the album's finest evocation of dichotomous sentiments is Wolper's own "The Girls in Their Dresses," where the arrogance of youthful infallibility crashes against the reality of fear, disillusionment and underachievement. (Christopher Loudon, JazzTimes)

She fills torch songs with sensual longing, then makes abstract vocal improvisations feel intimate as meaningful conversation... highly recommended for anyone who believes in the timeless essence of cool. (Chuck Graham, Tucson Citizen)

Wolper covers a number of standards, but I'm not sure she needs to—not that I'm griping, mind you, not at all, but rather because the woman is an intriguing composer completely in her own powers... (Mark S. Tucker, Folk and Acoustice Music Exchange)

Andrea Wolper just mesmerizes...more than a giant singer she's an actress to reckon with.
(Dan Singer, In Tune International)

Andrea is a creative jazz singer with an abundance of character. (O's Place Jazz Newsletter)