

Dawn Lambeth. Biography

She floats through the song with the greatest of ease . . .

Dawn Lambeth has the rare gift of making a difficult art look easy. Her sweet rhythmic singing makes audiences smile. Other vocalists think the need to “create” new melodies and obscure the original lyrics, as if the Gershwins really needed to be improved on. Dawn likes to recognize the tune and sing the words so that listeners can enjoy them as much as she does. When she steps up to the microphone, she’s having a good time – one that she happily shares with us.

The songs she loves to sing might be familiar – THE MAN I LOVE or BLUE ROOM – or a song that makes you chuckle with its sly romance, MOONBURN – but old songs seem new when she sings them and new ones become old friends. “These songs are like the stories I love – they’re beautifully constructed little gems.” She’s also a fine swinging pianist, so she doesn’t need a big band and a sequined gown to bring music to any party.

Her voice is special – a beautiful instrument, lending itself easily to elation or the bittersweet feelings so often found in the songs of the great period – and she brings deep feeling to her music, without ever emoting or overacting. She doesn’t imitate anyone, but the memorable singers we all know resonate through her own singular approach, gentle and unaffected.

Dawn has appeared on four compact discs, winning praise from reviewers on both coasts, and she has performed at a dozen renowned jazz festivals in the United States and in Japan with musicians who are delighted to have her onstage. Her most recent release “Live at Studios on the Park (DVD)” was released in 2012. Residing in Paso Robles, California, she frequently delights Central Coast audiences with her Usonia Jazz Band, performing regularly for private events and at highly regarded hotels, wineries and music venues.

For more information about Dawn Lambeth please visit www.dawnlambeth.com or call (805) 610-5418.

“Let’s Get Lost” on the airwaves.

- Received airplay on over 100 radio stations and syndicated shows in the US, Canada, Australia, Europe and Japan (June 2008)
- Broke into the on the CMJ Jazz Charts top 40 (July 2008)
- In the Top 10 jazz CD's of the week for over 12 of those stations, and was #1 CD of the week at 2 of those stations.
- Picked up for reissue in Japan by the VividSound record label, selected tracks have been picked up by labels in Thailand and China

*“With **assured vocals** that show an affinity for the form, Lambeth leads a crew of crack jazz hitters that are all on the same page in a set that has the kind of sound and feel of a cool, unexpected find you would find in a thrift store (not a used shop). Not off beat but delightfully off center. Not nostalgic, not retro, **just really cool.**”*

Chris Spector, Midwest Record

Seen...

At more than a dozen renowned jazz and music festivals.

Dixieland Monterey Jazz Festival, <i>guest artist</i> <i>in 2011 and 2013</i>	Pismo Beach Jazz Jubilee
Arizona Classic Jazz Festival	Pittsburgh Jazz Festival
Big Bear Lake’s Festival of Jazz	Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
Desert Swingin’ Jazz in Palm Springs	San Diego Dixieland Jazz Festival
Jazz in the Olympics	Seaside Jazz Festival
Jazz in the Rockies	Sonoma County DixieJazz Festival
Live Oak Music Festival	Spokane Dixieland Jazz Festival
Mardi Gras in Fresno	Swing in the Colony, Atascadero
Medford Jazz Festival	Sweet and Hot Jazz Festival

At historic venues, such as.

Avalon Theatre, Maryland
Hearst Castle, California
William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
Smithsonian Institution, Wash., DC

With many noted bands and musicians, including:

The High Sierra Jazz Band	The Bobby Gordon Sextet
Titan Hot Seven	Clint Baker’s New Orleans Jazz Band
Grand Dominion Jazz Band	Leon Oakley’s Friends of Jazz
The New Orleans Rascals, Osaka, Japan	The Boilermaker Jazz Band
The Usonia Jazz Band	Little Charlie Baty
The Reynolds Brothers Rhythm Rascals	Carl Sonny Leyland

Overheard ■■■

*“Of special note on this CD is the vocalist, Dawn Lambeth, who brings a **refreshingly unaffected** quality to delightful melodies. Obviously familiar with recordings by Billie Holiday, Fats Waller, and Louis Armstrong, Dawn never the less has her own sense of time, phrasing, and sound that is quite endearing.*

In addition to her talents as a singer, she also is a fine pianist in her own right.”

- Charlie DeVore, noted jazz historian and cornetist

*“This band really swings, and Dawn’s in great voice. **Great, obscure songs!**”*

- Ken Crawford, host of NPR’s internationally syndicated “Rhythm Sweet & Hot”

*“On New Year’s Eve, nowhere jumped any more massively than – you’d never guess – Gigi’s in San Luis Obispo. Songbird/pianist Dawn Lambeth, has a solo gig there, [and] Gigi’s hired in a really classy group to go with Mademoiselle Dawn on the Eve... As the crowd grew, **jeopardizing the local occupancy limits**, and the standing room disappeared, the management made that unheard of request: ‘Could you play louder?’ They could, and did, and nobody went home until the place closed down.”*

- Jim Leigh, West Coast jazz columnist for The Mississippi Rag

*“**Truly outstanding jazz!** Dawn Lambeth’s talented, sweet voice added a note of charm.”*

- New Orleans Jazz Club of Northern California

*“A **smooth** band, featuring vocalist Dawn Lambeth, who sings in the style of Lee Wiley and Maxine Sullivan.”*

- Andy Whittenbourn, traditional jazz photographer

*“It’s the girl singer, and she’s doggone good. ... reminding me of a young Jo Stafford. Close your eyes, and you can almost hear the radio announcer saying, “Now from the ballroom of the **elegant** Metropole Hotel, the music of...” ...it’s Ms. Lambeth’s voice that makes it all work. All this simplicity is tougher than it seems, in that there’s no scooping into the notes, just a crisp forward motion, given Ms. Lambeth’s gifted talent for phrasing. She **makes it seem simple**, and that’s her great talent.”*

- Doug Boynton, Girl Singers

*“ Dawn, thanks for that Disc of **Truth & Beauty**. You are a plum **wonderful singer**.*

*I love the songs you pick -- **great taste** -- you must be an avid record collector or a music listener both **sensitive and voracious**....How I envy you for performing and recording with those guys. How I envy them for congregating around a singer of such quality. ”*

- Mike Plaskett, host of NPR’s internationally syndicated “Rhythm Sweet & Hot”

Reviews of Let's Get Lost (2007) & "Midnight Blue" (2004)

"Even if you can't sing, and I sure count myself in that group, you can't help wanting to swing along with Dawn Lambeth on her recent release, Let's Get Lost (Spanish Shawl Music). Although residing in trendy southern California, Dawn eschews the abundant pop and rock covers of many of her contemporaries, instead delving (sometimes quite deeply) into the songbooks of the 20s and 30s, noting that "the older era just felt more authentic to my own style."...Let's Get Lost takes the listener on a joyous journey down the sunny side of Swing Street. Every song reveals a deep well of supportive musical talents and, thanks to Dawn Lambeth, every word, every verse opens like a perfect rose. Let's Get Lost is a delightfully fragrant bouquet."

Andrea Canter, Jazz Police

"Wow! Wow! Triple wow for Dawn Lambeth. What a great album!"

George Middleton, KLBC Long Beach

"The CD fairly bursts out of the speakers – not with volume but with a joyous vitality that is too rare today – and Lambeth's voice, airy and gentle, floats above her gifted accompanists. Her approach is straightforward and unaffected, without tricks or gimmicks, and she's not trapped in recreations of 1938 Vocalions. She is engaged in the music and having a good time, and her pleasure communicates itself immediately to listeners... If you think that the Mildred Bailey, Billie Holiday, and Maxine Sullivan dates of the great period are ethereal pleasures (and who would not?) you will find this CD evocative although not hemmed in by their records. I look forward to many more rewarding Dawn Lambeth CDs."

Michael Steinman, Cadence

"Dawn Lambeth, who earlier this year appeared at the Derby with an all-star group of swing and classic jazz players, is a cheerful 1920s/30s jazz singer. Her style is conversational and friendly, a bit like that of Maxine Sullivan. When she improvises notes or words, it sounds like a logical part of the song, an "improvement" that works. On Let's Get Lost, she is assisted by a notable octet (clarinetist Bob Reitmeier, John Smith on alto and soprano, cornetist Marc Caparone, trombonist Dave Caparone, pianist Chris Dawson, guitarist John Reynolds, bassist Clint Baker and drummer Jeff Hamilton) that often makes the performances reminiscent of the early Billie Holiday records with Teddy Wilson. That connection is reinforced by Chris Dawson, who on this date generally sounds similar to Wilson, the relatively brief performances (no song lasts longer than 5:07), and the repertoire. While Lady Day never sang "Let's Get Lost" or nearly half of the 18 songs, the style and frameworks are similar and just as rewarding. Historic models aside, Dawn Lambeth has her own approach to interpreting swing standards, she often includes the verses, and she clearly believes in the words and the timeless spirit of the music."

Scott Yanow, Los Angeles Jazz Scene

"Dawn Lambeth's new CD is a gem...with great songs, stylish singing and first rate musicianship! Kudos to all concerned."

Bob Collins, The Jazz Cafe WRHU