

# JazzWax

Marc Myers writes daily on jazz legends and legendary jazz recordings

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## Gordon, Laurie and Clairdee



### About

Marc Myers writes regularly for *The Wall Street Journal* and is author of "Anatomy of a Song" (Grove) and "Why Jazz Happened." Founded in 2007, JazzWax is a three-time winner of the Jazz Journalists Association's best blog award.



**A CD you should know.** *Clairdee: A Love Letter to Lena* (Declare Music). Clairdee is a warm, soulful singer who makes every song she sings her own. I love her new tribute album to Lena Horne. For Clairdee, Horne's struggles in Hollywood are relatable. In the 1940s and '50s, the charismatic Horne straddled between who she was—a Black actress and singer with enormous talent—and what white Hollywood wanted to present and how often. Despite her abilities, Horne could only go so far, and no matter how hard she worked, a depressing barrier for anyone. On her new album, Clairdee's heart is in every song, and her backing band and arrangements are terrific, especially the songs with a Singers Unlimited-like vocal backdrop.

[Go here.](#)

[Here's](#) Clairdee singing the 1973 Charles Fox and Norman Gimbel song made famous by Jim Croce, *I Got a Name*...

