

About Andrea Wolper

Noted for her "sophisticated cool," "very individual sound," and "a swing that never stops," Andrea synthesizes disparate influences into a very personal presentation. With abundant on-stage appeal, warmth, humor, and unique jazz arrangements of standards, originals, and favorite pop songs, she has the ability to reach audiences beyond category, as she makes each song her own, moving seamlessly between the intimate & energetic, wrapping audiences in her joyful embrace.

Andrea appears in clubs, festivals and concert halls in the U.S. and internationally. New York performance credits include Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola (Jazz at Lincoln Center), Iridium, Sweet Rhythm, 55 Bar, Cornelia Street Café, Makor, 3 JVC New York Jazz Festival concerts, and more. Additional appearances include Jazz at the Cape (South Africa), Donne in Musica Festival (Italy), Hot Clube (Portugal), Club Reduta (Czech Rep.), Oxident Club (Berlin), Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz, Fairfax (CA) Jazz Festival, Jazz on the Plazz (CA), First Night New York, Many Colors of a Woman Jazz Concerts, and performances on numerous other concert and festival stages. She appeared in "A Singers Celebration" at the Blue Note in New York, joining an impressive roster of jazz vocalists.

Andrea plays with some of the most interesting instrumentalists in New York and beyond. By 1998 her core trio evolved to include guitarist Michael Howell and bassist Ken Filiano, with Ron Affif later stepping into the guitar slot. Andrea's most recent recording, "The Small Hours" (VarisOne.Jazz), is built around this trio with Wolper, Affif, and Filiano. Produced by Todd Barkan, the CD also features drummers Victor Lewis and Jamey Haddad, and guest artists Lou Marini (flute) and Frank London (trumpet and flugelhorn). The CD, with Andrea's arrangements of standard and non-standard music, as well as her own compositions, continues to receive high critical praise and to be heard on radio since its release in late 2005. Andrea's 1998 self-titled debut CD was also praised in music industry journals and has been the subject of radio feature presentations.

About Andrea Wolper, continued

Although Andrea appears most often as the leader of her own group, she is also a member of Art Lillard's Heavenly Big Band, is part of an improvising trio with Connie Crothers and Ken Filiano, and has appeared as a guest artist combining poetry and music. In 2003, Andrea organized and performed in a 13-member ensemble of women musicians for the JVC NY Jazz Festival; she was part of a smaller group from that ensemble that then was invited to perform the closing concert in the Donne in Musica Festival in Frascati, Italy.

In addition to singing, Andrea is a creative songwriter, lyricist, and arranger. Her original compositions and unusual arrangements of standard material, as well as of poetry and music from a variety of genres, reveal a singular musical sensibility. She is also an accomplished writer whose journalism and poetry have appeared in numerous publications and whose non-fiction books have received acclaim. For years, Andrea was a writer of feature articles for Back Stage, and wrote for numerous other publications as well. Among her works are two books, "The Actor's City Sourcebook" (Watson-Guptill) and "Women's Rights, Human Rights: International Feminist Perspectives" (with Julie S. Peters: Routledge); she also contributed an essay to "But is it Art? The Spirit of Art as Activism" (Nina Felshin, Bay Press). As an actor, Andrea performed extensively in her native California and on the Off-Broadway stage; she studied at New York's prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse and Ensemble Studio Theatre.

All these experiences inform Andrea's organic approach to music. Her way with words allows her to create lyrics, for her own and others' compositions, that run the gamut from witty to thought-provoking to deeply moving, and her gift for inhabiting the life and spirit of a character infuses both her approach to song interpretation and her perceptive understanding of the intimate relationship between words and music.

Andrea enjoys teaching, with a focus on releasing music with freedom, spontaneity, and enjoyment. She is a past President of International Women in Jazz, and served on the Advisory Board of the Jazz Vocal Coalition. Andrea earned a black belt in Shotokan Karate.

For concert and workshop bookings, press inquiries, etc.:

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What They Say About Andrea Wolper

Live Performance

. . . a brave, unpredictable and soulful singer whose warm and sensual voice draws the listener into her delectable world. . . Ms. Wolper is an artist of uncompromising sincerity and creativity. When she is on stage, it is obvious how much she likes to connect with her audience. . . Her charm, grace and versatility made this a poignant and meaningful musical event.

JazzNow.com - CD release concert review

Her command is impressive. . . she brought vibrant energy, beauty, sophistication to our concert, handling the material with great ease, maturity in jazz [and] sheer delight. Her entire presentation, from her musical talents to her dynamic ability to entertain and connect with audiences, have us looking forward to a long musical association.

Nick Mathis, concert producer

Wolper's voice was simply fantastic . . . she bowled over the audience.

Neumarktonline.de

"The Small Hours"

. . . what a delivery! Wolper sounds as if she's singing just for you . . . Hushed at times, smoky, emotion-laden, singing just for you. . . she's come up with one of the strongest and most interesting vocal efforts of the year.

Dan McClenaghan, AllAboutJazz.com

. . . a singer with an uncanny emotional touch for the past 50 years of jazz. She fills torch songs with sensual longing, then makes abstract vocal improvisations feel intimate as meaningful conversation. . . The core of Wolper's sound is a hip tenderness that inspires trust. . . highly recommended for anyone who believes in the timeless essence of cool.

Chuck Graham, Tuscon Citizen

. . . a reminder that the voice is indeed the "first instrument." The way Wolper elicits emotion and passion suggests she actually cares about singing, and is not simply going through the motions. "The Small Hours" is strongly recommended, in large part, because each selection tells a unique story.

Eddie Becton, *All About Jazz*

. . . a smart, sophisticated set of smoky classics, bluesy originals, and a handful of offbeat songs all the more welcome for being underexposed. . . Guitarist Ron Affif and bassist Ken Filiano wrap their strings gently around Wolper's rich voice. Victor Lewis and Jamey Haddad take turns on the drum stool, while Frank London's trumpet and Lou Marini's flute add dashes of color.

Time Out New York

Andrea Wolper, continued

Andrea . . . has made her return to recording something special. . . It would be tempting to choose several favorites from her song list, but that would be unfair. All of her arrangements are entirely original, not copying from anyone else, but rather making her own personality a vital component of the music. . . Her smartness at reinterpreting standards or writing her own music, not to mention her sophisticated coolness, has created a recording unlike any other, and it does deserve attention from jazz listeners.

Bill Donaldson, JazzImprov

Blending June Christy with Julie London seems the vocal equivalent of adding shaved ice to cocoa. Yet Andrea Wolper, an increasingly popular presence on the New York City club circuit, makes the mixture delightfully palatable.

Christopher Loudon, JazzTimes

. . . a superb singer celebrates the release of her gorgeous new CD. . . a highly original performer with a sultry, late-night sound.

Andrew Gilbert, Contra Costa Times

Wolper has a fluid and attractive vocal sound and a pleasing low-key approach. Rather than impose herself upon the songs she selects, she enters into them, drawing subtle nuances from the lyrics, and shaping the vocal lines into jazz performances. . . Thoroughly entertaining and musicianly, this CD should appeal not only to many hardcore jazzers but also to those Friends of Good Songs who like their familiar fare gently spiced.

Bruce Crowther, Jazz Journal International

There's nothing strange or quirky about Andrea Wolper's warm, beautifully modulated voice—but her arrangements? Those are something else again, from her torchy, dreamy ballad setting of "Dancing on the Ceiling" to her elaborately slow take on Van Morrison's "Crazy Love." The mood throughout the program is slow and sensuous, with only a couple of midtempo interludes to break the spell. Very nice.

Rick Anderson, CD Hotlist

Wolper is a fine singer and promising songwriter, and Affif and Filiano both expressive players.

Edward Kane, JazzReview.com

"The Small Hours" is a beautiful, intimate sharing. . . the band picks up from where the old Blue Note Jazz groups (and Miles with Bill Evans), and Chico and Coltrane left off. . . This band is a world traveler. . . The Small Hours" is such a sweet ticket.

Da'ud X. Mohammed, Oregon Coast News Signal

. . . a relaxing, yet highly inspired, bluesy interlude (that will stay in your collection for many years to come), this one comes MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Dick Metcalf, Improvijazzation Nation

Andrea Wolper, continued

Andrea is a creative jazz singer with an abundance of character. . . the program includes twelve songs: 3 originals and 9 standards that are effectively transformed with Andrea's indelible signature - pleasingly so!

D. Oscar Groomes, O's Place Jazz Newsletter

The sound quality is superb for a small independent label offering. Andrea Wolper has a very individual style that separates her from much of the pack treading this often-tried territory, and that bodes well for her future. Recommended.

Tom Gibbs, Audiophile Audition

Editorial

Subtle yet constantly creative, lyrical yet never shy to stretch herself, Andrea Wolper is a true jazz singer.

Scott Yanow

To hear the effortless, warm notes that Wolper conjures forth is to hear the sound of a woman truly born to sing. Her voice soars and slides as though perfectly at home, stepping softly down well-worn hallways of smoky jazz, climbing gracefully up stairs of cheery elegance, and descending fearlessly into darkened basement corners of melancholic blues. With a repertoire that comprises uniquely interpreted standards, original compositions, and even the odd poem set to music, Wolper offers up a variety of textures and moods in her music.

Cole Hons, Centre Daily Times

Andrea. . . simmers on jazz swingers. . . Her throaty fondling of melodies recalls some of those '50s-era white girls (Chris Connor, June Christy, Julie London), but ultimately seems more indebted to the late Carmen McRae and her ilk; like McRae, Wolper understands the importance of jazz's lyric content—not shying away from starkness, dark beauty or introspection—and knows how to engage her sidemen as sly, interpretive co-conspirators.

Tim DuRoche, Willamette Week

"Andrea Wolper"

. . . her voice is clear and rich and she slides off the beat just enough to really swing while her backing trio is inventive and tight. The set is mostly familiar stuff with leanings towards the blues. Her languid swing on "What's Your Story, Morning Glory" and "Angel Eyes" is perfect and her a capella introduction to Billie Holiday's "Left Alone" captures the song's stark power. This is a good low-key session. Wolper seems to really understand the nuances of jazz singing.

Jerome Wilson, Cadence

Andrea Wolper's CD is a most welcome effort. This young woman has a swing that never stops.

Richard Bourcier, JazzReview.com

Where Andrea Wolper Has Played

A ridiculously incomplete list of Andrea's live and on-air appearances

55 Bar (NY)
Amnesty International Media Spotlight Awards (NY)
Bartlett Arboretum (Stamford, CT)
Bennington Museum (VT)
Blue Note (NY): "A Singers Celebration"
Brooklyn Botanic Garden (NY)
Central Library (and tour, Portland, OR)
Club Oxident (Berlin, Germany)
Club Reduta (Prague, Czech Rep.)
Cornelia Street Café (NY)
Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center (NY)
Donne in Musica Festival (Frascati, Italy)
Downtown Restaurant (and tour, CA)
East Meets West (Portland, OR tour with Judi Silvano & Cathi Walkup)
Enzo's Jazz Room (NY)
Equinox Café (Millheim, PA)
Fairfax Jazz Festival (CA)
55 Bar (NY)
First Night New York
Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz (CT)
Green Dolphin Club (Cape Town, South Africa)
Hot Clube (Lisbon, Portugal)
Iridium Club (NY)
Jazz and Blues by the Bay (Sausalito, CA)
Jazz on the Plazz (CA)
Jazz Vespers (St. Peter's Church, NY)
JazzClub (Erfurt, Germany)
JazzClub Neue Tonne (Dresden, Germany)
JVC Jazz Festival (NY)
Jewish Museum Summer Nights Series (NY)
KCSM - on air (San Mateo, CA)
KMHD - on air (Portland, OR)
KMOX - on air (St. Louis, MO)
KRML Jazz and Blues Company (Carmel, CA)

KSJS - on air (San Jose, CA)
Makor (NY)
Many Colors of a Woman Jazz Concerts (Hartford, CT)
Midtown Jazz at Midday, St. Peter's Church (NY)
North Square (NY)
The Priory (Newark, NJ)
Queens Museum of Art (NY)
SABC Concert Hall (Cape Town, South Africa)
San Francisco Bay Area (tour)
Sausalito Art & Wine Festival (CA)
Sausalito Jazz & Blues by the Bay (CA)
Soundwaters (Stamford, CT)
"Strangers Every Night - An Evening of Uncommon Lyrics to the Great American Songbook," curated by Lara Pellegrinelli (NY)
Sweet Rhythm (NY)
Sydney's Blues & Jazz Club (Rehoboth Beach, DE)
Szechuan Tokyo (East Hartford, CT)
WKCR - on air (NY)

Some of Andrea's sidewoman and guest artist live or recording appearances

Art Lillard's Heavenly Big Band
Dennis Mitcheltree
Diana Wayburn
Golda Solomon & Po'Jazz
Judi Silvano & Voices Together
Lorenzo Sanguedolce Over 18
Improvising Band
Mark Weber
Matt Lavelle
Rich Siegel Orchestra
Terry Vineyard Qt.