

BIO

Anna Callahan is an award-winning arranger and a captivating performer. She has played trumpet and sung in various ensembles ranging from small combos and big bands to tight-harmony vocal jazz groups.

Hers is a lifelong dedication to jazz: she wrote and arranged her first jazz composition for big band in high school, where she also won state awards for both vocal jazz and classical trumpet playing.

While at the University of Michigan, Anna became the leading force in the newly formed vocal group Amazin' Blue. Under her direction, the group began winning national awards for their recordings and for Anna's arrangements. Anna is the author of The Collegiate A Cappella Arranging Manual, published by Hal Leonard and considered the standard text on the subject. She was also one of four arrangers in UAAS, an international service providing arrangements for both *a cappella* and accompanied vocal groups.

By the age of twenty-three Anna had established herself as a gifted arranger. At this point her drive to fully understand the jazz medium compelled her to immerse herself in the other dimension of jazz—improvisation. Without any formal jazz training, she was soon able to hold her own as a trumpeter with many accomplished musicians in the Ann Arbor area, including Paul Keller (bassist for Diana Krall) and Mark Hynes (saxophonist with the Rodney Whitaker Sextet). In Los Angeles, Anna taught Vocal Jazz at California State University at Long Beach where she led award-winning ensembles before she left to concentrate on performing. In addition to performing with her own band, Anna has also toured internationally with the Ray Conniff Orchestra.

In the fall of 2000 she formed the Anna Callahan quartet, which performed at Los Angeles area clubs such as the Jazz Bakery, Steamers, Charlie O's, and the Vic, among others. Anna's rich voice conveys the melody of a jazz standard so purely that you think you're hearing it for the first time; then she surprises you with a scat solo strongly reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald. Her trumpet solos show the influence of Clifford Brown, while with the flugelhorn she expresses her more feminine side.

Anna's debut CD, *My Ideal*, was released August 30, 2002. Containing 5 originals and 6 standards, *My Ideal* is being played on dozens of jazz stations around the country and internationally, and Anna has been a featured artist on United Airlines as well as A&R Online, a site that links exceptional artists with record labels. Her second CD is scheduled for release in spring of 2004.

Now in Boston, Anna performs with groups ranging from duets with piano or guitar to septets including other horns. These small combos are ideal for showcasing the many facets of her talent, not least of which is a vivacious personality that radiates playful energy.

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QUOTES

"I have produced, arranged and recorded with many great female jazz singers: Ella Fitzgerald, Anita O'Day, Carmen MacRae, and Nancy Wilson, among others.

"But never have I encountered a female jazz singer who had the attributes that Anna Callahan has: She's Ella and Diana Krall rolled into one young, tall and extremely beautiful lady! And like Chet Baker she plays a great horn: trumpet and flugelhorn.

"Like the current careers of Jane Monheit and Diana Krall, Anna Callahan will now make that 'duet' of female stars a 'trio'! When you see Anna perform you will understand my excitement over her."

Buddy Bregman, arranger/producer/director for Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Mel Torme, and many others

"Singer-trumpeter Anna Callahan strikes gold with her debut CD, which includes songs by such noted composers as Rodgers & Hart, Richard Whiting, Irving Berlin, Jobim and Frank Loesser as well as five superb originals. If you love the great songs sung with warmth and panache, you will love Anna Callahan. Her uncomplicated phrasing and sunny timbre give the lyrics a clear-headed beauty and her soft-focus trumpet playing is right out of the Chet Baker school. Her music, whether played or sung, is straight from the heart -- without any detours."

Roger Crane, LA Jazz Scene

"It's not often I see a vocalist the caliber of Anna Callahan, who is also a fine instrumentalist, as in her case, an excellent trumpet and flugelhorn artist.... The first visual impression of Callahan was that of the clean-cut, pretty girl next door. However, I've not yet had so talented a neighbor. Selecting emotion-filled old standards, she sang softly with a quiet sophistication and solid presentation. Callahan demonstrated vocal gymnastics and occasional scatting around melodies with marvelous voice control, clearly in control of what she was doing. It becomes an introspective experience for the audience, with her style drawing the listeners into the lyrics, bringing out memories and thoughts."

Harvey Barkan, LA Jazz Scene

"Anna's got it all! She sings with great intonation, crisp rhythmic phrases, and a clearly musical conception. Her original songs sound like standards that you've somehow never heard before, but want to hear again and again. And she plays some nice trumpet too! Check her out!"

Barry Zweig, jazz guitarist

"Anna's voice is so warm and sincere, I love hearing her sing. Also, the influences of her background as a jazz trumpet player and arranger are very apparent in her voice; she is a cut above so many other local jazz singers. It's rare to find her unique combination of talents."

Michele Weir, internationally renowned vocal jazz educator

"It always fascinates me when someone who is born with immense talent actually develops that talent into immense skill. Anna is one of those rare people. First you hear her trumpet playing with exquisite tone. Then you hear her silky voice. Then she scats. And at the end of it all you realize she wrote the tune. Amazing! She combines original tunes, standards, and great musicians to create a live performance that's even better than the CD."

Eric Bradley, Vocalist for Rosemary Clooney and Barbra Streisand

"Anna sits right in the pocket of her music, both vocally and on the trumpet—a combination that's simultaneously slam-dunk and sophisticated."

Amy "Bob" Engelhardt, vocalist with the Bobs

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“I can’t describe how impressed I am with Anna’s honest talent—she is music. Her arrangements are superb, and she always knows what’s happening and goes with it. She is sure to quickly become recognized as one of the great jazz singers.”

Dr. Laurie Franks, performed in 250 Equity musicals (14 on Broadway)

“Anna’s smooth, silky tone will entrance you. It has no equal.”

Peter Zuercher, fan