

lauren kinhan

When legendary Phil Ramone discovered and signed Lauren at a Bitter End performance in NYC in 1997, people began to really take notice of her fiercely creative voice and original music. With influences steeped in jazz, followed closely by her love of the great singer/songwriters, she has morphed a style that borrows from both disciplines while moving the original song forward in new and unexpected ways. Any way you look at it, she's a jazz vocalist with a broad imagination and an appetite for mixing things up. Phil called her a true songstress.

Many agree that veteran vocalist and composer Lauren Kinhan is at the peak of her form as shown on her latest project, **Circle in a Square**. **Jazz Journal** called it "a vocal tour de force," and the Midwest Record said, "this set sounds familiar but like nothing you've heard before... giving us a nu kind of jazz thrush without the tortured artist effect." **Jazz Times** simply said, "Lauren has never shone brighter." Partnered with the great engineer and producer Elliot Scheiner and seed money from a successful Kickstarter campaign, she has unleashed 12 exquisitely crafted songs that push boundaries and buttons. Written primarily through the jazz lens, Lauren set the songs on a traditional jazz trio and punctuated it throughout with many special guest performances from Randy Brecker, Romero Lubambo Donny McAslin, Chuck Loeb, Joel Frahm, and Gary Versace. "These twisting, unpredictable tunes seem to offer up more on each repeat listen," said Jazz Journal, "with Kinhan's supple voice running at full pelt through a broad musical palette. **Circle in a Square** was released January 7, 2014. "It simply does not get much better than this. 5 Stars!" shouts Bop-N-Jazz.

Christopher Loudon of Jazz Times wrote about Lauren's acclaimed 2010 release **Avalon**, "Sweet surprises lurk around every corner shaping a pastiche that is hip, intelligent and vibrant." Lauren describes it as her "getting back on her bike CD." "Parenthood changes everything, from the way you look at life, at yourself and at your personal goals and limits," says Lauren. **Avalon** was made over an 8 year time span, the first tracking date occurred when she was newly pregnant and then put aside for future reference. "Dory and a Single Oar" was an important outgrowth of that tracking session, cementing a new approach to melding jazz and singer/songwriter sensibilities in her writing process. While the CD meanders a bit more broadly than **Circle in a Square**, all signs pointed to her being on the right path. Jewels like "Here is my Avalon," string hued "Here After," and "There Alone Go I" are some of the standouts. Jazziz publisher Michael Fagien said "I can't stop listening to it. She mines deep reservoirs of emotion and experience throughout."

Since 1992, Lauren has been a member of the internationally renowned vocal group **New York Voices**. Their career has taken them all over the world working with many of music's gems like Nancy Wilson, George Benson, Bobby McFerrin, Paquito D'Rivera, Jon Hendricks, Annie Ross, Ivan Lins and The Manhattan Transfer. In 2013 NYV celebrated their 25th Anniversary with two new releases, **New York Voices Live with the WDR Big Band** and their long anticipated Holiday CD, **Let it Snow**. Their ever growing list of programs keep them busy with world class symphonies and big bands and their successful educational division has grown from offering Master Classes and Workshops all over the world to producing the annual **New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp** currently in partnership with Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

New York Voices participated on one Grammy winning project and one Latin Grammy winning project, with their featured work on the Count Basie Orchestra's ***Live at the Manchester Craftsman Guild*** in 1997 and Paquito D'Rivera's ***Brazilian Dreams*** in 2003. They continued to use the choral canon as the backdrop for their voices as evidenced in their 2007 release, ***A Day Like This***.

Lauren's versatility as a composer is shown in her contributions on **New York Voices** CDs over the years, and co-founding two other super groups, **Moss** and **JaLaLa**. Moss, made up of Luciana Souza, Kate McGarry, Theo Bleckmann, Peter Eldridge and Lauren, released their self titled CD, ***Moss***, in 2008 to rave reviews. In 2010, it was included in DownBeat's 'Best CDs of the 2000s' issue. **JaLaLa** is short for Janis Siegel (The Manhattan Transfer), Laurel Massé (founding member of The Manhattan Transfer) and Lauren Kinhan, and they released their tribute to Johnny Mercer ***That Old Mercer Magic*** in 2009.

Her debut solo project, ***Hardly Blinking***, was produced by Phil Ramone, Frank Filipetti and Rob Mounsey, and showcases that historic set that Phil heard at the Bitter End in 1997. It references the influence that Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Bonnie Raitt and Joni Mitchell played in her early writing. Expect categories to be dashed once again with rock anthems sitting next to art pieces and bossa novas. "Ask Amelia," "I Saw Love Today," and "Heaven and Earth" are particular high notes.

You can hear Lauren's voice on the recent Bobby McFerrin project, ***VOCAbuLaireS***, and Ornette Coleman's 1996 release, ***Sound Museum, Three Women***. She toured with Ornette, and was asked to join the line up of his 1997 Lincoln Center retrospective, "**?Civilization**" featuring Billie Higgins, Charlie Haden and Gerri Allen. In 1996, Lauren and Japan's star guitarist/producer Jiro Yoshida teamed up to release ***Guitar and the Moon***. This stellar quartet project, featuring Eddie Gomez, showcases her personal take on the standards.

Lauren served on the Board of Governors for the Recording Academy's NY Chapter from 2008-2010. She has continued her work on the Grammy Career Day committee. Her private teaching studio is in demand. She is a graduate of Berklee College of Music.