

CARMEN ANNELLE WOODRUFF

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Mobile: 702-581-2978

Education

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, BOSTON

Post Master's Fellowship (2015 – 2016)

Creative Project: one-woman show in tribute to Ella Fitzgerald (self-written and self-produced)

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, VALENCIA, SPAIN

Master of Music, Contemporary Performance: Voice (2014-2015)

Coursework: ear training, private vocal lessons, jazz ensemble, music business, music technology, piano

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS (UNLV)

Bachelor of Arts, Music: Voice (2011)

Coursework: jazz improvisation, jazz combo, jazz ensemble, applied lessons

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL (UNC-CH)

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism and Mass Communication, public relations sequence (2003)

Private Instruction

Peter Eldridge, Celia Mur, Jo Belle Yonely, Ursula Walker, Sharon Szymanski, Victoria Bigelow

Relevant Performance Experience

Detroit Institute of Music Education (DIME) performances, lessons and courses as an instructor, GoComedy! Improv Theater Academy and Showcases, Company One's Professional Development for Actors Showcase, Berklee College of Music events, Berklee Valencia Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, Berklee Valencia Groove Ensemble, UNLV Big Band, UNLV Jazz Combo, UNLV Private Events Jazz Ensemble, Las Vegas Jazz Society, Independent Professional Performances, Smooth Jazz All-Star Cruise, Richard Simmons' Cruise to Lose, Busch Gardens Williamsburg "Starlight Orchestra: Big Band Show", UNC's Loreleis a capella group, Sisters in Jazz (Southeast Michigan IAJE mentoring program)

Venues/Festivals/Appearances: AVALON Boston, The Boston Conservatory, Copley Marriott (Boston), Valencia Jazz Festival, Jimmy Glass Jazz Bar (Valencia), Upper Club (Valencia), Palau de las Arts: Aula Magistral (Valencia), Berklee Valencia LAGO Concierto Series (Valencia), KUNV Ella Fitzgerald Tribute (Las Vegas), Suncoast Casino & Hotel Las Vegas, Gold Coast Las Vegas, Palms Resort & Casino Las Vegas, ARIA Resort & Casino Las Vegas, The Will Edwards Show (Las Vegas), Lakewood Church (Houston), Walt Disney World's Wide World of Sports, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Detroit Montreux Jazz Festival, Carnival Cruise Lines, University of South Africa (UNISA)

Notable Artistic Collaborations/Enrichment: Studio sessions with Joe Mulholland and Bob Nieske, Berklee Valencia master classes and one-on-one sessions/lessons with Terri Lyne Carrington, Patrice Rushen, Livingston Taylor and Nona Hendryx. Onstage collaborations with Greg Hopkins, Doug Johnson, Bruce Gertz, Bob Tamagni, Stephen Webber, Raydar Ellis, Dave Loeb, Marlena Shaw, Don and Alicia Cunningham, Israel Houghton, Steve Crawford, Michael and Fiona Mellett and Lakewood Church Music Ministry, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Randy Scott, Straight Ahead (Grammy®-nominated), Ursula Walker, Buddy Budson and Moe O'Shaughnessy.

Awards/Distinctions

West Bloomfield High School Fine Arts Wall of Fame Inductee (2019)

Berklee College of Music Post Master's Fellowship (2015-2016)

Commencement Student Speaker, Berklee College of Music (2015)

Berklee Scholarship (2014-2015)

Golden Key International Honour Society (2012)

UNLV Joe Williams Scholarship and Music Grants (2010, 2011)

UNLV Dean's List (2010, 2011)

Singsations Las Vegas Finalist (2006)

Woody Herman Jazz Award (1999)

Detroit Montreux Festival Teal Jazz Vocalist of the Year (1994, 1998)

Affiliations

NABFEME, American Jazz Initiative, Berklee Valencia Student Advisory Board, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) General Alumni Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Carmen Woodruff VOCALIST



She sings from her truth: heartfelt, soul-stirring, and honest. Sharing stories and dialogue from personal adventures, trials, and successes, she leads her audience through time while simultaneously embracing the possibilities of tomorrow. Captivating audiences since grade school, Detroit metropolitan native Carmen Woodruff was first introduced to jazz at the age of 11.

“Nothing can compare to the beautiful lyrics of standards. I never grow tired of performing and delivering them.”

Her passion has led her to South Africa, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and most recently Spain, where she’s played a part in festivals, clinics, corporate events and productions, including her self-written and self-produced one-woman show *Ella and Me: A Conversation with Music*, which debuted at Valencia's Jimmy Glass Jazz Bar in 2015.

Stateside, she’s honed her skills at Busch Gardens, Walt Disney World Resort and the former Detroit Montreux Jazz Festival, emerging as the “Teal Jazz Vocalist of the Year” twice. Learning from the greats, including Motown’s Martha Reeves, Ursula Walker, Sunny Wilkinson and Peter Eldridge, Woodruff has shared the stage with Marlena Shaw, Don and Alicia Cunningham. Starting her higher education music studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Berklee College of Music’s graduate program,

Woodruff then embarked on a post-master’s fellowship at Berklee, where she was coached and inspired by a multitude of top names in jazz and contemporary music. Her current project is a revamped version of her one-woman show, which debuted in the U.S. at The Boston Conservatory on June 15, 2016, the 20th anniversary of Ella’s death. Highlights included personal accounts from Carmen’s family history, including special memories of her grandfather, Joseph Jenkins, the first officially recognized commissioned African American officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. When she’s not onstage, Carmen works for the Detroit Institute of Music Education on the music faculty and with students local and abroad as a professor and vocal coach. For more information about Carmen, visit CarmenWoodruff.com.