

Claudia Koval Biography

Claudia Koval is an American Jazz vocalist who hails from Edmonton, Canada. She studied classical piano in Edmonton through the Royal Canadian Conservatory of Music and classical voice at the University of Victoria. While in Victoria, she also performed with a jazz trio fronted by pianist Richard Whitehouse. Claudia credits her classical roots to creatively influencing her career as a jazz vocalist and song writer. She names as her early vocal influences Sarah Vaughn, Astrud Gilberto, Barbara Striesand, Better Midler and Cleo Lane.

Before moving to Los Angeles on a music scholarship in 1981, Claudia sang in various venues in Edmonton, often performing alongside well-known Canadian artists (among them - PJ Perry, saxophonist and recording artist - Tommy Banks, musical director - Andy Glover, pianist – and Bryan Sim, pianist). She was honored to be the first Canadian female singer for American trombonist Bob Stroup, who co-founded Edmonton’s Grant McEwan College Jazz Program, now an accredited University.

Edmonton became known as Canada’s Jazz City for many years, attracting vocal artists such as Betty Carter (with whom Claudia “traded four’s”) and Sheila Jordon, to name a few. She also completed a summer Jazz program at the Banff School of Fine Arts – studying and singing with American Blues artist, “Big” Miller.

Once settled in Los Angeles, she furthered her music studies at the Dick Grove School of Music in Studio City where she graduated with honors in the Composing an Arranging Program (CAP). Here she composed and arranged for various contemporary styles, which culminated in her final project for a 40 - piece orchestra.

Concurrently Claudia performed as a jazz vocalist in various LA establishments - the Queen Mary with the acclaimed Phil Sobel Big Band,

Monteleone's Woodland Hills, Monty's Westwood, and Lunaria in Century City – all performed with pianist and locally known recording artist, Joanne Grauer.

She then took an extended “detour” from her musical ventures, obtaining an MBA at UCLA, and temporarily focusing on a second career in entertainment business management in Los Angeles until 2014. Claudia is once again pursuing a re-inspired career as singer and song-writer.

In the last several years, she has been invited back to perform in her home town of Edmonton, Canada. In California, she can be seen sharing her original compositions and jazz standards at the famed Gardenia Supper Club in West Hollywood. Three Rivers, Thousand Oaks and surrounding areas invite Claudia to enhance many private events. In addition, she has performed at the Ventura County Fair.

*Claudia released her first CD entitled “**With Heart and Soul**”, in 2015 – a dedication to her mother. Her amazing musicians included Andris Mattson, piano - Nick Klingenberg, bass – Ken Herrera, drums and Marc Macisso, reeds. The song styles vary from Jazz, Torch/R&B, Pop, and Country and is available on iTunes (Apple Music), YouTube, Amazon, and Spotify*

*Currently Claudia is recording her second CD “Songs from the Raggedy Road”, inspired by her life journey with her emphasis on various vocal stylings, which she affectionately describes as “*Jazz, etcetera...*”*

This new CD/album features several of Claudia Koval's original works, including a re-make of her final orchestral project, “Shh, the Sky is Ours/Ode to Big Sur...” as well as a few covers of some of her favorite songs.

“Songs from the Raggedy Road” will be publicly released in the fall of 2018, with the traditional CD Release Show to follow.

For updates, visit www.claudiakoval.com

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