

SHERRI ROBERTS - Biography **jazz and unusual standards**

“When you listen to Sherri's thoughtful way with a vocal line, or her vibrant sense of swing, or her effortless embodiment of a song's emotion . . . well, a certain starry-eyed enchantment is inevitable. And why not? It's a response to Sherri's own affection for her songs.” - Drew Wheeler, liner notes: ***The Sky Could Send You***

Sherri Roberts was raised in Atlanta, Georgia and received a B.A. in theatre from Antioch College in Ohio. It was there she was first introduced to jazz studies - its history and repertoire - as well as early Renaissance choral music and the 20th Century avant-garde.

Upon relocating to San Francisco, she became involved in both theatre performance and management, while never abandoning her love of singing and her growing interest in jazz. At a transitional point in her life, she recognized that exploring the rich emotional life of a character through story could be done far more economically in a four minute song than a two hour play; that a well written song is like a miniature play, distilled down to its musical essence; and that singing, like acting, offers the means to externalize the deeper internal self. She walked away from the theatre and onto the bandstand and never looked back.

Drawing from this diverse training and experience, Ms. Roberts blurs the line between cabaret and jazz singing. She performs the tunes of Broadway and Tin Pan Alley in modern jazz settings, while her great affinity for Brazilian music and the lyricized compositions of more contemporary artists such as Dave Brubeck, Marian McPartland and Bill Evans keeps her song choices personal and exciting. She takes her innate feeling for melody and rhythm and mates it with an attraction for less-known and wrongly-neglected songs.

Ms. Roberts' interpretation of this repertoire derives inspiration from the Vo-Cool jazz era. Her velvet voice, laid-back phrasing, impeccable diction, and understated delivery veils an uncommon depth of feeling, and recalls the cool jazz pedigree of June Christy, Chet Baker and Helen Merrill. “She's a breath of fresh air,” exclaimed Kirk Silsbee of *Los Angeles City Beat*, “Pure and unaffected.”

Sherri has four recordings as a leader and a fifth, ***Anybody's Spring***, a collection of both familiar and rare songs about Springtime accompanied by a bi-coastal rhythm section of David Udolf, Harvie S, Akira Tana and Sheryl Bailey, will be released in March 2017. This newest recording is preceded by ***Lovely Days*** (January 2013,) a duo session for Blue House Recordings/Pacific Coast Jazz, showcasing the brilliant but little documented pianist **Bliss Rodriguez**. Dan Bilawsky of *All About Jazz* describes ***Lovely Days*** as “delightful” and “... a recording that is at once both intimate and wholly open.”

It is a worthy successor to Sherri's stunning 2006 release (also on BHR/ PCJ labels), ***The Sky Could Send You***, produced and arranged by bassist **Harvie S** (formerly Harvie Swartz) with special guests, legendary saxophonist **Phil Woods** and trumpet virtuoso **Lew Soloff**. “This recording elevates Sherri Roberts to another level within the jazz vocalist galaxy of stars. Her evocative expressions and poetic lyricism envelop the listener in a warm cocoon of sound,” exclaimed *All About Jazz's* Paula Edelstein. Christopher Loudon of *JazzTimes* called the outing simply “Enchanting.” “*Sky*” received significant radio airplay on over 100 jazz stations in North America and marked Sherri's third collaboration with Harvie S, following their critically acclaimed recordings on the Brownstone label: ***Twilight World*** (1996) and ***Dreamsville*** (1998).

Twilight World was called “an impressively warm and lyrical debut” by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. ***Dreamsville*** garnered even greater critical response. *JazzTimes* said “Everything works here. Encore Ms. Roberts.” *Cadence Magazine* effused “Her voice is beautifully expressive and rhythmically fluent. And the intelligence behind each lyric interpretation is manifest.” And the *Los Angeles Times* called Roberts “A superior bop and standards vocalist (who) puts plenty of feeling and swing into her music.” ***Dreamsville*** charted on the prestigious Gavin Report where it remained for a full seven weeks.

Sherri has recorded or performed with Harvie S, Mark Soskin, Danny Gottlieb, Chris Potter, Eric Friedlander, Keith Underwood, Joe La Barbera, John Hart, Vince Cherico, and many top Bay Area musicians.

Ms. Roberts is a true scholar of popular music with a deep appreciation for its heritage and freely sites such diverse influences as Ella Fitzgerald, Carol Sloane, Irene Kral, Chet Baker and Shirley Horn. She was privileged to study with jazz master Sheila Jordan and also with the late Jeri Southern, as well as with Mark Murphy, Jovino Santos Neto, and Dr. Billy Taylor.

She performs regularly in the Bay Area and has toured to major jazz venues in the states and abroad.

**For more information, contact www.sherri-roberts.com
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