

L'Tanya Marí'
jazz artist

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L'Tanya Mari' has been a major force in the jazz scene for more than 15 years. As a creative jazz singer, arranger, songwriter and educator, and as a performing artist for the Virginia Commission for the Arts since 2010, she has been making an impact. The release of her debut CD, **A Teardrop Of Sun**, received very favorable reviews as has her special Ella 100 Celebration concerts which find her celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's legacy by performing gems from her career and telling stories about the masterful singer.

A special highlight of L'Tanya's career so far was her performance residency at the Bamboo Bar in Bangkok, Thailand where she sang in duo, trio and quintet settings with some of the top players in Southeast Asia. She performed a wide range of music including jazz standards, Bossa novas, blues, and contemporary numbers including exploring the songbooks of Diana Krall, Cole Porter, Frank Sinatra, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and Ella Fitzgerald. Among the popular songs that L'Tanya uplifted for the enthusiastic audiences were "Fly To Me The Moon," "Summertime," "Cry Me A River," "Come Fly With Me," "The Island," "Old Devil Moon," "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To," "Skylark," "Let's Fall In Love," "Work Song," and "What A Wonderful World." She changed the song list every night due to the mood of the audience and her interaction with them, and the result was that she was always a crowd pleaser.

L'Tanya Mari' grew up in Philadelphia. She heard jazz from an early age, studied cello for seven years along with piano, and as a teenager began working towards becoming a jazz singer. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Business at Howard University, had important private lessons with drummer-singer Grady Tate, sat in at jam sessions, and started performing at clubs in the Virginia/Washington D.C. area. She also worked towards earning a Master's degree in Jazz Studies at the University Of The Arts and learned how to combine her classical voice training with jazz theory.

Her recording **A Teardrop Of Sun**, which includes such highlights as her fresh versions of Bill Evans' "Very Early," "Star Eyes," Chick Corea's "Crystal Silence," and "You Go To My Head." finds L'Tanya's voice sounding quite beautiful. She makes her interpretations of even the most challenging pieces sound effortless. **A Teardrop Of Sun** garnered strong airplay across the US and Canada with a chart status of #30 on the American Jazz Charts.

L'Tanya has earned grants from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, been a finalist in the Billie Holiday Competitions, and appeared at such venues and festivals as the Ice House in Virginia, Franklin Park Arts Center, First Night Williamsburg, Barns of Rose Hill, the Arts Center Cape Charles, the Prizery Performing Art Center, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gloucester Arts on Main, The ArtBank of Southside Virginia, Wayne Theatre Alliance, Pro Arts Organization, Lorton Workhouse Art Center, Mason District Park Concert Series, the 21st Annual African-American Heritage Festival, Jazz On The Lawn at Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech, Source Festival, Dance DC Festival at the Atlas Art Performance Center, The Twins Jazz Club, The Bohemian Caverns, Jazzway 6004, International Women In Jazz, Andrea Clearfield Salon, and other Mid-Atlantic region venues.

For the future, L'Tanya Mari' says, "Once the world finally opens up, I look forward to resuming touring, singing in public extensively again. I am always searching, wanting to evolve and not repeat myself. I really appreciate the freedom of jazz where I can be free to arrange a song by changing the tempo, using different instrumentation and varying my approach to make it my own. I plan to build upon the knowledge I have gained from living a life of music and share it with as many listeners as possible."



Booking Info

MariJazz Entertainment, LLC
ltanya@ltanyamari.com
(703) 568-7699

www.LTanyaMari.com



Radio and Press

Kari Gaffney, Kari-On Productions
kari@karigaffney.com
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What people are saying...

"L'Tanya Mari' [has] a perfectly unadorned and simply phrased vocal style riding a perfect pitch voice. Her approach is not unlike that of a young Wynton Marsalis, who debuted with sharply-coiffed early recordings, well conceived and played. Mari' weaves her magic spell of impeccable technique and true feeling."

C. Michael Bailey, *All About Jazz*

"What makes a jazz singer is the soul they're able to pass on to the listener, and L' Tanya Mari' has that down to a 'T'... she's one of the best jazzers I've heard this year, and gets a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to be sure."

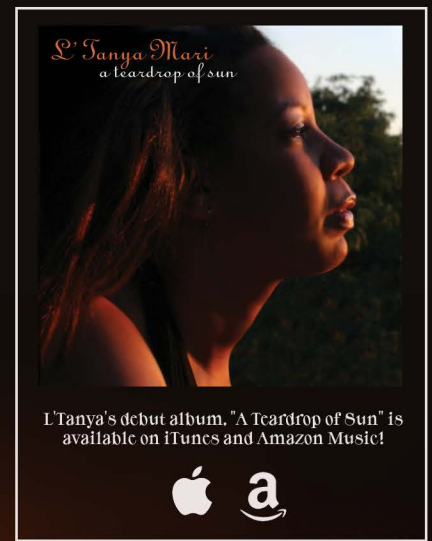
Rotcod Zzaj, *Improvijazzation Nation, Issue #95*

"With a clear and vibrant tone that ranges from the lilting falsetto to the huskiness of a Sarah Vaughn, Philadelphia-bred L'Tanya Mari' displays a vocal prowess that is not seen very often."

Carmen Miller, *Jazz USA*

"L'Tanya's voice has flavors reminiscent of Diane Reeves and she possesses the power and poise of a veteran jazz singer, a pleasant surprise in a saturated world of ballad Diva parlor singers."

Ric Mancuso, *KMHD 89.1 FM*



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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

- Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Artist in Residence, Bamboo Bar – Bangkok, Thailand
- Jazz At Meade
- Franklin Park Art Center
- Barns of Rose Hill
- Barns of Rose Hill
- Arts Enter Cape Charles
- Gloucester Arts on Main
- The ArtBank of Southside Virginia
- Wayne Theatre Alliance
- The Prizery Performing Art Center
- Pro Arts Organization (Concert)
- Pro Arts Organization (Master Class)
- The University of Virginia's College at Wise
- Lorton Workhouse Art Center
- 21st Annual African American Heritage Festival
- Jazz On the Lawn at Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech
- Craig Alston's Jazz for the Holidays! at Jazzway 6004
- Open Source Theatre Festival Jazzaret - The Bill Evans Project
- Richmond Jazz Society Annual Showcase - Guest Educators Series
- Willow Garden Outdoor Theatre
- The Kogod Courtyard at Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
- 30th Vintage Wine Festival - Centerville, VA
- Mason District Park Concert Series - Arlington, VA
- Source Festival THE CHEMISTRY OF ART: "It's Me You Should Blame"
L'Tanya Mari' vocals collaborating with Angella Foster, choreographer,
and James Hesla, director, Washington, DC
- Dance DC Festival at the Atlas Art Performance Center
- The Kogod Courtyard at Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
- Lorton Workhouse Art Center
- Friday Night Jazz at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC
- Weekend Jazz Series at The Ice House - Herndon, VA
- Twins Jazz Club - Washington, DC
- The Bohemian Caverns - Washington, DC
- Columbia Station - Washington, DC
- The Islander - Washington, DC
- Home Braddock Inn, VA
- Notaviva Vineyards, VA
- Sala Thai, VA
- Cabaret at Germano's, MD
- Jazz at 219 Basin Street - Alexandria, VA
- Jo'Jo's - Washington, DC
- Bossa Bistro - Washington, DC



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FESTIVAL AND CONCERT APPEARANCES

- Dance DC Festival
- International Women In Jazz Festival
- Alexandria Summer Lunch Time Concert Series at Canal Plaza
- West Oak Lane Jazz Concert Series
- The Salon House Concert Series
- Manassas Wine & Jazz Festival
- Dance DC Festival
- The 30th & 31st Annual Westminster Presbyterian Church Jazz Festival
- Montgomery College - An Evening of Jazz
- Live on the Woodrow Wilson Plaza Summer Concert Series
- Alexandria Summer Lunch Time Concert Series at Canal Plaza
- Montgomery County Summer Sounds in the Park
- Herndon Wine and Jazz Festival

DISCOGRAPHY

- A Teardrop of Sun - self-produced by L'Tanya Mari' "2009"
- Howard University Jazz Band - HUJE "96"

MUSIC GRANTS AWARDED

- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2016-2017
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2015-2016
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2014-2015
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2013-2014
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2012-2013
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2011-2012
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 2008-2010
- The Source Festival's Artistic Blind Dates, 2010
- A Creative Communities Fund grant
- Virginia Commission Performing Tour Artist Directory, 2010-2011

MUSIC NOMINATIONS

- WASHINGTON AREA MUSIC ASSOCIATION 2010 ANNUAL NOMINATIONS:
 - Jazz Vocalist Category
 - Jazz Recording Category
 - New Artist of The Year Category
 - Debut Recording Category: A Teardrop of Sun

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