

Web Site *SUR L'INSTANT* Full Bio

New York-based jazz singer, songwriter, arranger, and actress Deborah Latz is brimming with musical discoveries and brings a fresh sound to every performance. Displaying a wide ranging talent, Deborah can move from a deep and soulful ballad, to scatting on a bebop tune, to trading fours with a hip hop artist, all the while delighting audiences with her personal warmth and consummate musical skill.

On her fourth album, *sur l'instant*, released in May 2015, vocalist Deborah Latz enjoys the company of two superb musicians, the pianist Alain Jean-Marie and the bassist Gilles Naturel. Gone are the drummers, guitarists and horn players that fleshed out the striking performances on her previous recordings. Yet by reducing the instrumentation, the focus is drawn ever more closely to the fine points of Latz's evolving art. Set in relief against her compatriot's sensitive and open-eared accompaniment, Latz displays the expressive depth and masterful interpretive skills that mark her as one of the most gifted singers of her generation.

The instinctive nature of the project reflects Latz's stated goal: to produce an album that demonstrates her deeply felt affinity for swing and the elemental three B's of jazz: Blues, Bebop and Ballads. A straightforward notion perhaps, but Latz has brought a distinct sense of personal wisdom to the game. Drawing on classics composed by, or associated with, jazz masters, nodding only occasionally to familiar American Songbook standards, Latz exhibits a rare understanding of what makes jazz vocalizing so powerful. As the album's title asserts, the ability to pinpoint and make use of what's happening 'in the moment' remains the key to her vibrant and emotive performances.

Deborah released her third CD, *Fig Tree*, a new take on both the Great American Songbook and contemporary jazz, in May 2013. "From the acid jazz interpretation of 'Blue Skies,' to the dead-on rendition of 'S'Wonderful,' to the delightful, funky rhythms of 'Fig Tree', Deborah Latz demonstrates an

outstanding range of technique and creative musicality that places her at the forefront of jazz today,” writes renowned music critic Scott Yanow in the liner notes. Joining Latz on *Fig Tree* are veteran jazz artists Jon Davis on piano, John Hart on guitars, Ray Parker on bass, and Willard Dyson on drums, along with special guests Peter Apfelbaum on saxes, flutes, and percussion and Abdoulaye Diabate on vocals.

In 2004 Deborah launched her debut CD, *Toward Love*, ten standards that explore the path along the way to love—falling in, falling out, and moving “toward love” again. Jimmy Wormworth lays down the grooves that allow Deborah’s sultry, playful voice to reach full expression. Deborah followed the success of *Toward Love* with her 2008 release, *Lifeline*, featuring sax player Joel Frahm. Here Deborah unfolds a selection of timeless tunes and French chansons enriched by poignant memories and emotions of her childhood.

Deborah trained as an actress at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco; the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England; and with Anne Bogart and Richard Edelman in New York City. This training led to work in dramatic and musical theater, both in the U.S. and abroad. In 2000 she recorded the song “I’m Neurotic Over You” for the off-Broadway comedy *High Infidelity*, starring John Davidson and Morgan Fairchild, and later she wrote, produced, and performed in the one-woman show, *Travels With Ma Own Self*, which opened in New York and toured in Europe. For her performance in the one-woman drama, *Juliet*, Deborah received the Best Actress Award at the Jerzy Grotowski Theatre Festival in Wrocław, Poland. One of Deborah’s most meaningful achievements as an actress was to play the leading role of Maria in *The Prisoner*, a play based on the diary of Maria Koper, a Holocaust survivor of the Warsaw ghetto.

Deborah made her smash success debut at Blue Note New York, Late Night Groove Series on November 8, 2014! She continues to travel the globe as a performing artist. In March 2012 Deborah played at CD Blues Cafe in Beijing, China and was invited to sing in duo with Beijing’s celebrated jazz pianist, Liang Heping. In Paris she has performed with France’s luminary jazz pianist Alain Jean-Marie at Sunset/Sunside, Cave du 38 Riv, Café Universel,

Bab-Ilo, Le Neuf Jazz Club, Sept Lézards, and Atelier de la Main d'Or. She has also sung at House of Jazz and Quai des Brumes in Montreal, Canada and at Jazz Club Il Paradosso in Livorno, Italy. Stateside, Deborah has played such noted venues as The Kitano, Sweet Rhythm, Cornelia Street Café, Enzo's, 55 Bar, and The Cutting Room in New York; Trumpets in Montclair, New Jersey; and Jardine's Jazz Club in Kansas City, Missouri. While on a West Coast tour in 2011 Deborah headlined in Seattle, Portland, and Eureka, California and was featured live on the Lynn Darroch Show at KMHD radio in Portland, Oregon for her performance at Wilfs with Diana Ross' tour pianist George Mitchell, Pink Martini bassist Phil Baker, veteran jazz drummer Ron Steen, and guitarist John Keyser. Deborah performs regularly in New York City at Cornelia Street Cafe.

See Deborah's calendar for upcoming performances.