

# III

## GREAT FEMALE JAZZ SINGERS

Susanne Abbuehl, Claudia Acuna, Lorez Alexandria, Jackie Allen, Ernestine Anderson, Ivie Anderson, Leny Andrade, Eden Atwood, Alice Babs, Mildred Bailey, Pearl Bailey, Anita Baker, Josephine Baker, LaVern Baker, Patricia Barber, Blue Lu Barker, Emma Barrett, Pia Beck, Sathima Benjamin, Betty Bennett, Gladys Bentley, Terry Blaine, Lillian Boutte, Joyce Breach, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Hadda Brooks, Ruth Brown, Beryl Bryden, Jackie Cain, Blanche Calloway, Elsie Carlisle, Thelma Carpenter, Lodi Carr, Betty Carter, June Christy, Soesja Citroen, Fee Claassen, Jay Clayton, Rosemary Clooney, Holly Cole, Natalie Cole, Joyce Collins, Esra Dalfidau, Laila Dalseth, Barbara Dane, Dee Daniels, Maxine Daniels, Jacqui Dankworth, Dardanella, Kay Davis, Elaine Delmar, Donna Deussen, Urszula Dudziak, Dominique Eade, Madeline Eastman, Lorraine Feather, Rachelle Ferrell, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Nnenna Freelon, Karen Gallinger, Tizana Ghiglioni, Astrud Gilberto, Teddy Grace, Anita Gravine, Lil Green, Adelaide Hall, Annette Hanshaw, LaVon Hardison, Marilyn Harris, Marion Harris, Nancy Harrow, Chippie Hill, Billie Holiday, Joanne "Pug" Horton, Helen Humes, Barbara Jay, Ellen Johnson, Etta Jones, Salena Jones, Sheila Jordan, Marguerite Juenemann, Kim Kalesti, Stacey Kent, Sue Kibby, Carol Kidd, Rebecca Kilgore, Sandra King, Pamela Knowles, Irene Kral, Karen Krog, Jerry Kruger, Cleo Laine, Barbara Lashley, Janet Lawson, Barbara Lea, Maysa Leak, Jeanne Lee, Julia Lee, Peggy

Lee, Nickie Leighton-Thomas, Abby Lincoln, Carmen Lundy, Gloria Lynne, Tina Mae, Gill Manly, Reneee Manning, Nancy Marano, Kitty Margolis, Tina Marsh, Claire Martin, Susannah McCorkle, Susan McCorkly, La Velle McKinnie, Chris McNulty, Mable Mercer, Helen Merrill, Bette Midler, Velma Middleton, Florence Mills, Jane Monheit, Marion Montgomery, Marilyn Moore, Sarah Jane Morris, Ann Marie Moss, Maria Muldaur, Amina Claudine Myers, Stephanie Nakasian, Nanette Natal, Lauren Newton, Maggie Nicols, Judy Niemack, Anita O'Day, Barbara Paris, Kim Parker, Rebecca Parris, Anna-Otilie Patterson, Marilyn Middleton Pollock, Jan Ponsford, Jackie Presti, Ruth Price, Flora Purim, Sue Raney, Lucy Reed, Dianne Reeves, Rita Reys, June Richmond, Betty Roche, Annie Ross, Vanessa Rubin, Ellyn Rucker, Diane Schuur, Marlena Shaw, Sandi Shoemaker, Janis Siegel, Carole Sloane, Carrie Smith, Phoebe Snow, Jeri Southern, Rosemary Squires (Joan Rosemary Yarrow), Mary Stallings, Wendy Starland, Dakota Staton, Maxine Sullivan, Sylvia Syms, Tania Maria, Pha Terrell, Terri Thornton, Lisa Thorson, Christine Tyrrell, Marlene VerPlanck, Roseanna Vitro, Melissa Walker, Helen Ward, Carla White, Georgia White, Weslia Whitfield, Lee Wiley, Midge Williams, Cassandra Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Gail Wynters, Monica Zetterlund.

## S U S A N N E A B B U E H L

Susanne Abbuehl was born in Berne, Switzerland, on July 30, 1970. She wrote songs when she was a child and studied the harpsichord when she was seven years old. Abbuehl moved to Los Angeles when she was seventeen for vocal studies, where she joined a group that toured the United States and Canada. She returned to Europe and studied jazz, classical voice and composition, continuing to perform regularly.

Recommended: Compass [ECM], 2006.

## C L A U D I A A C U N A

Claudia Acuna was born in Santiago, Chile, and grew up in neighboring Concepción. She was turned on to jazz while a teenager and listened to the music of Frank Sinatra, Errol Garner and Sarah Vaughan. In 1991 she moved back to Santiago and sat in with many visiting musicians, including Wynton Marsalis, Michel Petrucciani, Joe Lovano, and Danilo Perez. She moved to New York City in 1995 and performs at major venues there.

## L O R E Z A L E X A N D R I A

Lorez Alexandria (née Delorez Alexandria Turner) was born in Chicago on August 14, 1929. After singing in church during her childhood, she became a gospel singer. Alexandria cut a few albums with pianist Ramsey Lewis before joining several jazz groups and recording with Wynton Kelly and Howard McGhee.

Recommended: Harlem Butterfly [Discovery], 1984.

## J A C K I E A L L E N

Jackie Allen was born in Milwaukee. She studied at the University of Wisconsin and majored in voice, having previously played the French horn. She sang with Melvin Rhyne in the late 1980s before moving to Chicago in the 1990s, where she teaches and continues to pursue her singing career.

Recommended: Let Me Go [Lake Shore Jazz], 1994.

**Nina Simone: “Everything that happened to me as a child involved music.”**

## E R N E S T I N E   A N D E R S O N

Ernestine Irene Anderson was born in Houston on November 11, 1928. She grew up in Seattle and, at age thirteen, began singing with various bands including those led by Johnny Otis and Russell Jacquet. In the 1950s she worked with Gigi Gryce and Lionel Hampton and toured Scandinavia with Rolf Ericson. Anderson recorded with Harry Arnold in Sweden. She then moved to England in the 1960s before returning to the States, where she lived on the West Coast and sang at various venues and festivals.

Recommended: *When the Sun Goes Down* [Concord Records], 1984.

## I V I E   A N D E R S O N

Ivie Marie Anderson was born in Gilroy, California, on July 10, 1905. She died on December 28, 1949. Anderson sang and toured with the Earl Hines Band throughout the United States and Australia. In 1931 she joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra. She is said to have had an “airy” sound and made a strong impact on singers during her lifetime. She made many records including the famous “It Don’t Mean A Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing!”

Recommended: *Ivie Anderson and Her All-Stars* [Storyville], 1946.

## L E N Y   A N D R A D E

Leny Andrade was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1939. In the 1950s she sang with many leading instrumental groups, including Sergio Mendes. Andrade toured Mexico, the United and Europe, and was considered a strong performer with a wide and varied repertoire.

Recommended: *Luz Neon* [Timeless], 1990.

**Billie Holiday: “I opened Café Society  
as an unknown. I left two years later as a star.”**

## E D E N   A T W O O D

Eden Atwood was born in Memphis in 1969. She is considered a talented and strong jazz singer. The people at Concord Records discovered her and subsequently released her self-produced record albums. All of Atwood's critics praise her ability to swing. She has a great sense of song interpretation and has amassed a large following.

Recommended: *There Again* [Concord Records], 1994.

## A L I C E   B A B S

Alice Babs (née Nilson) was born in Kalmar, Sweden, on January 26, 1924. She earned her reputation while singing in her native country and through her appearance at the 1949 Paris Jazz Fair. She joined Duke Ellington in the 1960s and began recording with him. Babs studied classical singing and sang popular music prior to specializing in jazz. It is reported that she swung easily and was a good interpreter of ballads.

Recommended: *Far Away Star* [Phontastic], 1974–1976.

## M I L D R E D   B A I L E Y

Mildred Bailey (née Rinker) was born in Tekoa, Washington, on February 27, 1907. She died on December 12, 1951. Bailey sang in various clubs—accompanying herself on piano—and was heard on numerous radio broadcasts before joining with Paul Whiteman in 1929. She made quite a few recordings and had her own radio show. Her big hit, “Rockin’ Chair,” led to her being called “Rockin’ Chair Lady.” After she married the great vibist Red Norvo, they were referred to as “Mr. and Mrs. Swing.”

Recommended: *Harlem Lullaby* [Living Era], 1931–1938.

**Ethel Waters: “At the time I started, I was one of the first to show people that there was an individual way of doing things with lyrics and rhythm.”**